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A HOME WEEKLY

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No. 396

"WON'T YOU LET MY PAPA WORK?"

BY MARO O. HOLFE.

[A touching incident occurred in a Western city during the great strike. A little girl, the daughter of a discharged employee of one of the leading railways, went to the office of the superintendent, and, in piteous tones, told a tale of suffering, destitution and death, and besought him to reinstate her father in his former position with an increase of wages.—*Paper.*]

I'm only just a workman's child—
I hope I don't intrude;
I came in here to talk to you.
But yet I'll not be rude.
I know the men have stopped the work—
It is a strike, they say—
But papa could not see us want,
Oh, won't you raise the pay?

Oh, won't you let my papa work?
And won't you pay him more?
Although you'd never miss the sum,
He'd bless you o'er and o'er!

I see that you are angry, sir;
Your look is cold and stern;
You surely would not turn him off—
He has our bread to earn!
The Lord has placed us in his care,
And he'd work every day
For just enough to buy our food!
Oh, won't you raise his pay?

You could not chide a drowning man
For catching at a straw;
How can you blame a starving man
For breaking o'er the law?
My papa sits in silent woe,
And mamma cried to-day,
Because she had no food for us!
Oh, won't you raise the pay?

In Heaven there's a God, I know,
That pities all the poor
And writes dark charges on his book
Against the evil-doer
Who thinks a laborer's not a man;
I'm sure its leaves display
With expressions of the names of those
Who have put down the pay!

Don't tell me to be gone from here,
'Cause you are busy now;
I've something more I wish to say,
If you will please allow:
We haven't anything to eat,
And—*babies died to-day!*
He'll speak a word to God for you,
If you'll raise the pay!

I'm sure that you have got a wife
And little children too;
My papa loves us just as well
As yours are loved by you!
The wages of all sin is death,
The Holy Book does say;
And if you sin against the poor,
The Lord will raise your pay!

Oh, won't you let my papa work?
And won't you pay him more?
Although you'd never miss the sum,
He'd bless you o'er and o'er!

The Scarlet Captain: OR, The Prisoner of the Tower. A STORY OF HEROISM.

BY COL. DELLE SARA,

AUTHOR OF "THE CAPTAIN OF THE LEGION,"
"THE PRIDE OF BAYOU SARA," "SILVER
SAM," ETC.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BOAT IN THE OFFING.

DOWN—down! a hundred feet at least.
A fearful descent and one that few mortals
would care to make.

But were the two adventurers unharmed?
Had they boldly leaped into the sea to escape
from their determined and ruthless pursuers,
or had the shots of the Turkish muskets taken
effect?

Would the blue waters of the Adriatic—so
famed in story and in song—receive into its
close embrace living men, full of resolution,
ready to do and dare, or bleeding, mangled
forms, bereft of life's vital spark by the fatal
lead of the Moslem muskets?

That was the question which agitated the
minds of the renegade and his followers.
Eagerly they rushed to the ramparts and
climbing upon the overhanging buttresses gazed
down into the dark gulf beneath.

The air of the night was chill, the wind cir-
cling with many a mournful sound amid the
branches of the trees on the near hillside, and
the ever-moving waters of the famed old sea,
chafing restlessly against the weather-beaten
rocks of the tower, sang a low, wild song, full
to the top of many a strange note.

And was the murmur of the tide the requiem
for the dead—the wail of sorrow for the rash
men who had found a grave within its bosom,
or was it the pean of triumph for the daring
hearts who had risked life and all by trusting
to old step-mother ocean, and by the venture
at one bound had clutched success?

The night was so dark—the light of the moon
so feeble—that little could be discerned, as the
turbaned host looked down into a misty space
where neither life nor death appeared. Nothing
but the ceaseless song of the murmuring
waves or the shrill scream of the night birds
disturbed from their nests in the cavities of the
old tower-wall by the flashes of the torches, the
clang of arms and the fierce oaths of the wild
soldiers.

"Hark!" cried Hassan, perched upon the
wall, a torch in his hand, and gazing earnestly
down into the dark gulf beneath; "was not
that a yell of pain?"

"A bird-cry," answered the renegade, his
over dark face darker than usual at the un-
toward results of his carefully-planned schemes.
"I am sure that they were hit!" Hassan cried,



High up on a beetling crag, two men watched the Turkish host entangled in the mountain defiles.

evidently not willing to believe that the two
bold blades could have escaped.

"Yes, yes!" a dozen voices cried in chorus,
"they were hit!"

"Oh, yes," Hassan continued, "I saw the
tall fellow with the scarlet jacket stagger; he
did not leap, he fell from the tower."

"Who knows what is beneath—water or
rocks?" the renegade demanded.

"Water—twenty fathoms at the least," re-
plied the old warder of the tower, who chanced
to be one of the throng.

"And if a man leaped unhurt from the tower
what are the chances of his escaping?" ques-
tioned the renegade.

The warder shook his head.
"It is a fearful leap," he replied, evidently
in doubt.

"And the result would be certain death,
would it not, whether the man was unhurt or
not before he leaped?" Hassan cried. In his
own mind the Turk was fully satisfied that
both of the adventurers had gone to their long
home.

"By Allah! I cannot tell!" responded the
warder. "No man ever yet made the at-
tempt."

"And if they reached the water unhurt,
how far must they swim before they can make
a landing on the shore?" Ismail Bey asked. He
was just as positive that the two adventurers
had escaped the bullets of his followers as they
were positive to the contrary.

"Two hundred feet, go they either way,"
the old man replied.

"We lose time, then, dallying here!" the
stern Moslem chief cried. "Away at once to
the shore! Hassan, go you to the south while
I'll to the north. A hundred good pieces to
the man who discovers the Montenegro!"

The false son of the noble old mountain race
had jumped at once to the nativity of the man
who had, at such an untimely hour, wedded
Scutari's countess.

Away then, on the instant, the troopers hur-
ried. With hasty steps they raced down the
massive stair-case and out through the great
stone portals.

Outside the tower the party divided, one
squad sped away to the south, the other to the
north, and both came to the water's edge just
by the ends of the fortress.

The torches flared along the shore and the
reflections danced far out on the crest of the
waves, but fruitless was the search; no trace
of either of the two adventurers could be dis-
covered.

"To-morrow the sea will wash their bodies
up on the shore," one of the Turkish officers
suggested.

A dark look came over the renegade's face,
but he said nothing. It was plain that he was
puzzled and was not fully satisfied that the
daring man who had come between him and
his cherished plans had found a grave in the
waters of the Adriatic.

It was a mystery to the wily renegade how
the marriage had been arranged, but he believed
the Montenegro to be some lover of the
countess who had followed his mistress and had
arrived just in time to be of service to her.

Still looking around intently, the quick eyes
of the false Montenegro perceived a tiny
white speck afar off in the gloom, dancing
upon the bosom of the wave.

"What is that?" he cried; "is it a boat un-
der sail, or do my eyes deceive me?"

"It is a boat, your excellency," answered
one of the officers—"a fishing craft, probably,
beating into a harbor."

"To me she seems as if she were standing
out to sea," Ismail Bey observed, after a long,
steady gaze.

"It may be so—it is so, I think," the other
assented.

"No need to look further!" the Turkish leader
exclaimed. "The men we seek are in yonder
boat. She was passing near to the tower when
they leaped from it; she picked them up, and
now they seek safety in flight."

But not one of the group coincided with the
renegade in this opinion, although none chose
to say so.

One and all, the general excepted, fully and
firmly believed that the two men had found a
grave beneath the swelling waters.

Hassan and his party came up.
"Well!" the renegade demanded in his ab-
rupt, stern way, although it was hardly neces-
sary for him to put the question, for he plainly
read failure in the face of his officer.

"Nothing, your excellency, no trace at all."
"Did you observe a fishing-boat standing out
from the land?"

"Yes, your excellency."
"It is a hundred chances to one that our men
are on board of that boat."

Hassan looked incredulous.
"In the morning search the coast up and
down for twenty miles at least and find the
captain who sails yonder boat. Have a placard
issued offering a reward of a hundred pieces
of gold for information which will lead to the
capture of either one of these two men."

Hassan bowed.
The renegade beckoned the Turk apart.

"Call a council of my chief officers here in
the tower at twelve to-night; there is mischief
afoot, I fear. We have lost the Scutari dis-
trict, and we must strike a severe blow at once
or else we will have the Scutari men-at-arms
on the Montenegrin side; but if we can suc-
ceed in dispersing this Montenegrin force in the
Duga pass, we may at least hold Scutari
neutral."

Hassan proceeded at once upon his mission
and the renegade entered the tower.

CHAPTER IX.

THE RENEGADE'S PLAN.

STRAIGHT to the apartment of the countess
the renegade proceeded. He entered without
ceremony and found the two ladies standing
by the great oval window looking out upon the
sea, anxiously peering down into the darkness
beneath.

Catherine, with all her haughty pride, had
felt concerned for the safety of the man who
had so boldly thrust his head into the lion's
mouth for her sweet sake.

Quick in wit, as women naturally are, she
had dispatched the old priest to learn how the
fray had ended, and the aged Ivan ascertained
without difficulty from the first Turkish soldier
whom he had encountered that the two adven-
turers had been chased to the roof of the old
tower and from the parapet, to escape the Mos-
lem bullets, had boldly leaped into the sea.

A fearful chance for life!

"Am I a widow then, almost as soon as
wedded?" the countess murmured, as she gazed
from the window of the old tower upon the
inky gulf beneath and listened to catch the
sound which would tell of a strong man's strug-
gle against grim death.

Afar up and down along the shore, beyond
the walls of the tower, she could see the torches
of the Turkish soldiery flaming out in the dark-
ness of the night, and every now and then to

her ears the free winds brought the sound of
the Moslem laugh and the sound of the Moslem
curse, but no trace of the gallant fellow who
had so freely risked his life for her sake.

The abrupt entrance of Ismail Bey turned
the attention of the two ladies from the scene
without to the fierce warrior within.

"The first trick in the game is thine, Cath-
erine!" the renegade said, "thanks to this med-
dling priest!" and he scowled at the affrighted
Father Ivan, who, good, honest soul, would not
wantonly have harmed the very worm crawl-
ing in the dust beneath his feet.

"All the blame is mine!" cried Catherine,
spiritedly. "He but obeyed my orders, and
under compulsion, too."

"You are a married woman and have saved
your lands," the renegade confessed.

"Yes; and now that you have failed in your
purpose, I trust that you will throw open the
gates of this tower and let us go free."

"Not so fast," the false Montenegro re-
plied, a dark smile upon his bronzed face.

"The knot that yonder trembling priest has
tied with book and prayer, I, with the edge of
my saber, have severed. You have been a wife,
but now my hand has widowed you."

"My husband is dead?"

"Yes."

"Oh, no!" and a proud smile curled Cath-
erine's superb lip.

The renegade looked annoyed; he had not for
an instant imagined that the countess under-
stood how matters had gone.

"Your husband is dead. Why do you imply
a doubt?"

"Because it exists," the countess replied,
promptly. "To save himself from your bullets
the Scarlet Captain and his companion leaped
into the sea."

"And there perished!" interrupted the officer.
"Be not so sure of that!" retorted the countess.

"Yonder fishing-boat, now standing out
to sea, was but a short time ago running close
beneath the walls of the tower. The chances
are more than even that, instead of finding a
grave under the surface of the tide, the two
men, who so boldly dared your anger, are safe
in the fishing-boat."

He did not attempt to argue the point, but
one thing the officer desired to ascertain—who
was the fellow whose unexpected presence in
the old tower had so completely baffled his deep-
laid plan.

"Who is this man, who, for your sake, has
so boldly risked his life?"

"I named him but now—the Scarlet Cap-
tain."

"The Scarlet Captain?"

"So he is called."

"A fanciful title, truly; but, what else; has
he no other name?"

"None that I am aware of."

The Turkish general knitted his black brows;
he fancied that he was being deceived.

"It is useless to attempt to juggle with me!"
he exclaimed, impatiently. "You can not hope
to keep the name of this bold fellow from me;
long; the name of the lover of Catherine,
countess of Scutari, must be well known."

"My lover! Oh! you have arrived at a false
conclusion. The man is no lover of mine, nor
do I know aught of him, for I do not remember
to have ever set eyes upon his face before this
night."

The officer looked the amazement which he
felt.

"You yourself set the conditions by which
I had to abide; a husband I must have before
I reached my twenty-first year or else lose my

lands. This man came—a perfect stranger to
me, and when I questioned him as to his name,
and he replied that he was called the Scarlet
Captain, I was content. He accepted the terms
I imposed; a husband I must have, and he an-
swered the purpose. No lover of mine, though
—nothing but a tool which I condescended to
use in the dire emergency wherein your craft
had placed me."

Ismail Bey saw that the lady spoke but the
truth and his bold heart admired the daring
which had seized upon the sole chance to de-
feat the plan which would have wrested her
lands from her.

In truth it was a brave heart that Catherine
of Scutari carried within her woman's breast.
"And now that your scheme is set at naught
will you bid the gates of this tower open that
I may pass freely to my home?" the lady de-
manded.

Again the sinister smile on the face of the
renegade.

"I said the first trick was yours," he replied,
"but the second and the game, upon which
your fortunes are staked, I intend to win."

Fire flashed from the brilliant eyes of the
countess, but with a great effort she restrained
her anger.

"I do not understand," she said, coldly;
"please explain."

"You have been married; the chances are
that you are now a widow; you are here, in
my hands, helpless, a prisoner. If your hus-
band—this nameless adventurer, this Scarlet
Captain—is alive, if he has escaped alive the
bullets of my soldiers and the waters of the
Adriatic, his death is only a question of time,
for I shall hunt him down as steadily as the
ravaging wolves chase the stricken deer. When
he is dead, you will be quite free to marry
again, and the next time I will take care that
no interloper takes my place."

"This is terrible!" cried the countess, in heat;
"you will not dare!"

"Oh, will I not? Wait and see! John Belina,
the outcast Montenegro, has dared many
things in crossing the gulf which lay between
the penniless, friendless lad, driven from his
home and kin, and the Governor of Albania,
Ismail Bey. This bold adventurer, who has
dared to cross my will, is doubtless one of the
Montenegrin leaders of the force now holding
the Pass of Duga. Within three days I'll cut
a way through the pass and send this rabble,
which calls itself an army, howling to their
mountain homes. With a heel of iron I'll
stamp Montenegro to the dust and make these
stubborn mountaineers curse the hour when
they were rash enough to brave the power of
their master, the Turkish Sultan, and bring
upon them the mailed hand of stern-faced
war."

"The Turk has never yet subdued the free
mountaineers of Montenegro," Catherine an-
swered spiritedly; "and Russia will never stand
tamely by and see a Christian people trampled
beneath the feet of the Moslem."

"Wait and see; but whether Montenegro suc-
ceeds or fails, you at least shall not escape me.
I will keep you safely here until I either as-
certain that this bold adventurer is dead, or else
succeed in capturing him, in which case, I'll
shoot him on the instant. Then you will be
free to accept my suit. It is long years, Cath-
erine, since your father drove me from his door
because I dared to lift my eyes to you, but the
memory of the wrong is as fresh as though it
happened only yesterday. The whiff of
time has brought me my revenge, and by my
soul I swear that nothing on this earth has
power to turn me from my purpose. Your
face made me false to my country—drove me
forth an outcast, and now only your sweet self
can atone for the past. Let no vain hope of
escape delude you; the tower is well guarded
and every precaution taken. To-morrow I
march against the insurgents, and when I re-
turn, Catherine, you shall be mine!"

And then the renegade withdrew from the
apartment, leaving behind him consternation,
but not despair.

CHAPTER X.

THE ADVANCE.

At midnight in the old tower the council of
war was held.

The advent of the commander-in-chief had
been expected for some time, and, consequently,
all was in readiness for an advance in force the
moment he arrived and gave the word.

An army of some ten thousand men the Turks
had collected in the territory adjacent to the
old tower; an army of observation, merely, it
was said, but the sturdy mountaineers knew
better. They fully understood that when the
hour was ripe the Moslem host would sweep
through the defiles of Montenegro with all the
fury of the mountain avalanche, leaving naught
but death and destruction in their track.

Well commanded, too, were the Turkish
forces.

No better man in all the sultan's dominions
than Mukhtar Pasha, the second in command,
and as a cavalry leader all Europe held few
abler warriors than dashing Osman Pasha, the
wild commander of the wild Bashi Bazouks;
and as for the chief of the army, the dark-
browed, stern-willed renegade, evil-eyed Ismail
Bey, the Persian armies, who had often fled be-
fore the edge of his flashing saber, could many
a tale of his daring courage and excellent
generalship relate; and the gray-coated Russians,
too, during the Crimean struggle, learned to
dread the Turkish general who seemed to bear
a charmed life and fought with the courage of
despair.

The Montenegreans, ever on the alert—in their
watchful nature like to the eagles of their own

native mountains—had not been idle while the Turkish host lay at Dulcigno; like the rolling ball of snow, it grew larger and larger.

Warlike news travels with a fleet foot, and within three days after the first squadron of Bash Bazouks rode by the old dark tower and went into camp in the forest bordering on the sea which commanded the high road to the north, not a lonely village amid the Montenegro mountains, perched like eagles' nests amid the hills of pine, but knew that the insolent Turk threatened their own free, native land, and that warriors were needed.

Descendants of the warlike Greeks of old, a nation of shepherd warriors, to throw aside the peaceful tools of agriculture and seize the weapons of war, was but as a second nature. And so, rushing down from their mountain fastnesses as the wild torrents pour after the thunder lowers and the lightning flash, the bold and hardy mountaineers seized upon the Pass of Duga, the natural avenue to the Montenegrin land. As to the number of these wild warriors even the well-trained Turkish spies were at fault. One reported a thousand men; another, five thousand.

Little wonder that the wily renegade, perplexed by the conflicting accounts, sought to flank the strong position occupied by the Montenegrin army, rather than attempt to force a passage through the Pass.

And the Montenegrin general—the skillful student in the art of war who had the wit to seize a position so strong with his weak force that Ismail Bey, with ten thousand veteran troops at his back, hesitated to attempt to force a way through the Pass—who was he?

It Madam Rumor lied about the number of the Christian host, lied she still more recklessly and wildly in regard to the name of the man who, by his first move on the great chess-board of war, had caused skillful Ismail Bey to knit his brows, pull his beard, curse the chance and wonder how he could give a Roland for the Oliver so adroitly tendered.

Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, was the lineal ruler over the mountain land, but Nicholas was a boy, so termed by the Turkish veterans, one who had

Never set a squadron in the field
Nor the decision of a battle knew more than a spinster.

And was he, fresh from finishing his education in la belle Paris, gayest city of the old Eastern world, the man to leap at once into the saddle of command—the seat of generalship—and with one single move set at naught the skill of the able Turkish generals?

Oh, no! such an idea was utterly absurd! The Montenegrin prince, full of French polish, the rough mountaineer lacquered over by the civilization of the wickedest city in all the world, might do well enough to figure in a court-suit and perform the stately ceremonies of power, but to grasp the war-horse's rein, lead men to battle, join the fray where cracked crowns and bloody wounds were to be got and given—no, not he!

The great Russian bear was at the bottom of the mystery.

As perfidious Albion, crafty-trading England had lent Hobart Pasha to the Turks, and so strengthened the Moslem navy with a little Anglo-Saxon oak, so the far-seeing, far-reaching Russian, his eye on Constantinople, his paw on the Black Sea, had lent some white-headed, sage old general—some Dumskroski or Wiskeranoff, grown gray in service beneath the Russian eagles, to head the Montenegrin army.

And then another flying—and lying, perchance—report! The Montenegrin general was a mountaineer born, but who had been educated in the Russian service expressly for such an emergency.

But, be there truth or falsehood in these reports, there was no denying that the first action of the Montenegrin commander had caused the able Turkish generals to put on their thinking-caps.

Oflan Agan, who, as a cavalry commander, stood second to no captain in the Turkish service, despite his blundering ways, had been assigned to the task of discovering some avenue to turn the Montenegrin position.

The Irishman, good judge of human nature, searched carefully until he found a fellow who he thought could be trusted, provided he was paid well enough.

From this man, a native of the soil, by occupation a shepherd, the Bash-Bazouk officer ascertained that there was a lonely footpath over the mountain through which the Pass of Duga led.

With two companions, following-pieces in hand, in disguise, and apparently on sport intent, the Irishman explored the lonely way.

He found the words of the shepherd true in every particular.

Up and over and through the beetling crags the path ran, and finally debouched into the level plain a short half-mile north of the northern end of the Duga Pass.

To transport artillery over the mountain by means of the obscure path was impossible, but a regiment of men or a squadron of horse could easily travel the steep and uncertain way.

Here then was an easy solution of the problem which had perplexed the Turkish commanders.

While a few thousand men engaged the attention of the Montenegrins in the Pass, a strong column could, by means of the mountain road, be thrown abruptly on the rear of the Christian position.

Of course, this movement accomplished, the total destruction of the Montenegrin army must follow.

At one o'clock the council separated, and with the daylight, the Turkish column, the renegade in command, plunged into the defile and commenced the flank movement, while Mukhtar Pasha prepared to amuse the mountaineers by a sham attack in their front.

High up on a beetling crag, concealed amid the sturdy pines, two men watched the Turkish host entangled in the mountain defiles.

"God is great!" cried the Scarlet Captain, for one of the men was he. "Yon army is delivered, helpless, into my hands!"

(To be continued—commenced in No. 394.)

"Our boy Swipes," says a California paper, "is a regular attendant at Sunday school. Last Sunday his teacher was explaining a chapter to the class in the Book of Kings. After delivering herself of what she thought to be a very entertaining discourse, she asked the class, 'What is a king?' This was a poser to the class. Finally our boy Swipes, who is the pride of the Sunday school, held up his hand. This made his teacher smile benignly, for she was proud to see him so ready with an answer; so she said, 'Well, Swipes, what is a king?' 'Well, miss, you see, when you get in the king row and put a checker on him, why then he's a king; and when somebody leads jack, and another fellow plays a queen on pedro, you can make his eyes hang out by taking 'em both with a king.'"

MY MOUNTAINS.

BY J. L. STODDARD.

I watch them, as the king of day retires,
Like royal courtiers hold his purple train.
Their glittering summits tipped with golden fires,
Their bases darkening in the gloom-wrapt plain.

Yon lustrous peak whose pinnacles o'erleap
Its giant brothers, is to me Mont Blanc;
Those tiny cinderlets struggling o'er the steep
Are hardly travelers on its mighty flank.

Such have I seen it from the Alpine vale,
In whose warm lap the frosty glaciers melt—
Strange that this radiant mist, so soon to pale,
Can thus recall the thrill by Leman felt!

That tapering cone, o'er whose resplendent brow
A floating wreath of roseate vapor curls,
Is Vulcan's deeded mount, which oft as now
O'er Naples' peaceful bay its plume unfurls.

And this, the fairest, on whose spotless sheen
The sun's last beams with trembled ardor rest,
Naught else can be than Interlaken's queen,
A thousand jewels in her snowy breast!

Yon graceful form, thus flecked with pearly white,
Suggests the pride of Marathon's curved shore.
Whose pure Pentello wealth still greets the sight—
For sculptors' hands, alas! exhumed no more!

And this majestic, ever-darkening peak,
Which here in lines of deepest azure rears
Its clear-cut profile 'gainst eve's glowing cheek,
Like Egypt's grandest Pyramid appears!

Thus to my fancy in the waning light
My cherished mountains like loved friends re-
turn.
And greet me till they shroud themselves in night,
While from their depths the rolling planets burn.

The Bouquet Girl; OR, HALF A MILLION DOLLARS.

BY AGILE PENNE,
AUTHOR OF "ORPHAN NELL," "STRANGE
STORIES OF MANY LANDS," "THE DE-
TECTIVE'S WARD," "WOLF OF
ENHOVEN," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXIX.

A FOUL OUTRAGE.

"NINE o'clock, diavolo!" cried the adven-
turer, angrily, as he listened to the sound of
the bells. "Is it so late, then?"

"Is it nine," the colonel assented, in his
stolid way.

"And ze young man—ze actor, Craige,
comes soon after nine; we have no time to
lose; we must be quick or else we shall have
our labor for our pains. I must insure our
bird, at once."

The carriage was drawn up to the curbstone
just below the old tenement house, the horses'
heads facing toward Hester street.

The colonel was on the box all muffled up
and striving to appear as much like a regular
driver as possible. The adventurer had de-
scended to the sidewalk.

"I will proceed at once," he said; "turn
you ze horses around and drive right up in
front of ze door; then jump down and be
ready to assist me—ready to place yourself
between us and ze corner, so that no one can
see me place ze girl in ze coach. Be tranqui!
keep your head and we shall not fail."

Then the Italian marched into the old brick
barracks, while the colonel proceeded to carry
out his instructions.

Straight up the stairs walked the Italian un-
til he arrived at the door of the apartments oc-
cupied by the old Irishwoman with whom the
Bouquet-Girl had found refuge.

Upon his arm the adventurer carried a heavy
gray traveling shawl, and in his hand was a
small sponge.

The Italian seemed to possess the catlike
faculty of seeing in the dark, for the gloom
that reigned supreme within the entry did not
appear to disconcert him in the least. When
he arrived at the door, he paused, listened for
a moment, then took a small bottle from his
pocket and poured the contents upon the
sponge.

A strong, subtle odor filled the damp and
murky atmosphere, at which the Italian shook
his head.

"She will smell this—she cannot help it; ah!
but will she suspect? Oh, no! it is not prob-
able."

It was a bold game the adventurer was
playing, and now at the eleventh hour his
heart began to fail him; he felt a doubt of
success, so hesitated to knock.

"If I am caught it is ze State Prison," he
murmured; "but for what do I play? A half
million of dollars! Is it not worth ze risk?"
With a desperate effort he screwed his courage
to the sticking point and knocked at the
door.

His design was a simple one—to pretend to
the girl that he had some important infor-
mation to communicate regarding Mr. Craige;
swear that the young actor was in danger; en-
tice her out into the entry under the pretense
that his information was so important that it
must not be overheard by any one; and then,
when once the door was closed, the sponge
saturated with chloroform and the heavy shawl
must perform their offices.

He had little fear that the old Irishwoman
in person might interfere with his plan, but if
she took the alarm, her cries would arouse the
neighborhood, and then "good-by" to all hope
of success.

In obedience to his summons the door opened
and the Bouquet-Girl appeared in person.

"Hush, signora!" cried the Italian, mysteri-
ously; "betray you no sign of surprise! To
serve you I come. That noble young man, ze
Signor Craige, he is in great danger; you can
save him, but no one else in ze wide world
must know that in ze matter I have a hand, as
it may cost a-me my life. Please step you out-
side and then to you I will explain; ze lady in-
side must not hear."

Frank dreamed of no danger—had no
thought of evil. "The lady is out at present,
so speak freely; no one can overhear you," she
said, at once. The name of Craige was the
open sesame to her confidence.

And then, in the heart of the scheming
Italian, came a great thrill of joy. Success
seemed certain.

"Ah, signora, if you will have ze kindness
to permit me to enter," he said, bowing
humbly.

"Certainly."

And as the Bouquet-Girl turned half-around,
came the villain's opportunity. He seized the
unsuspecting girl in his vise-like grasp. One
broad hand he placed upon her mouth, thus
stifling any attempt to alarm the house; with
the other hand he applied the sponge, satu-
rated with the potent drug, to her nostrils.

He held her against his breast, so that it was
almost impossible for her to move.

In vain she strove to resist the effects of the
powerful drug, for now, too late, she fully
realized that she was the victim of a terrible
outrage, but the firm hand pressed over her
mouth, and the sponge applied directly to her
nostrils cut off the supply of air, and, resist
as she might, nature was yielding.

Her senses began to reel; her breath came
thick and heavy; all around her grew suddenly
dark, and then a great wheel, throwing a vast
shower of brilliant sparks, seemed to revolve
within her brain; the wheel burst and all was
darkness.

The drooping head, the light, helpless form,
only kept from sinking prone upon the floor
by the powerful arms of the adventurer, re-
vealed to him that the girl was wholly in his
power.

No time was to be lost, for the old Irish-
woman might return at any moment; then,
too, it was nearly time for Craige to make his
appearance.

Sustaining the unconscious form with one of
his strong arms, he folded the shawl carefully
around her, and then, raising the girl in his
arms, her identity almost completely concealed
by the heavy muffer, he prepared to descend.

First he carefully closed the door of the
apartment, so that the entry way was again
wrapped in utter darkness, and then rapidly
turned down the stairs.

"Diavolo!" he muttered; "it will not be
well for any one to attempt to stop me now, for
I am desperate! I play for a great stake, and
I mean to win at any cost!"

Fortune—fickle jade! favors the brave, they
say; and also the desperate, too, for in this
case the Italian succeeded admirably in his
risky attempt. He reached the street door
without encountering a soul.

In obedience to orders, the colonel had the
coach-door open, and stood ready to assist his
leader.

"Up to ze box and drive off," the leader
exclaimed, as he advanced with his burden.

Not a soul was within sight, excepting the
people passing by on Grand street, at the cor-
ner; and of course, at such a distance, in the
darkness, no danger was to be apprehended
from them.

The colonel climbed to the driver's seat as
fast as his clumsy limbs would permit, but, be-
fore he had got the reins fairly in hand, the
principal, with his helpless burden, was safely
ensconced within the coach with the door
snugly closed.

The colonel started the horses, and the
brutes, ugly, clumsy animals, struck into a
lumbering trot.

Down the street they went, and turned into
Grand, and as the coach rolled past Center
Market, the keen-eyed Italian, ever on the
watch, detected the tall, manly figure of the
young actor, Craige, evidently proceeding to
his home.

"By all the devils below!" cried the Italian,
drawing a long breath, "but this has been a
narrow shave. Five minutes more—three min-
utes even—and he would have caught me com-
ing out of ze house. And what then?" he
cried, sinking back upon the seat and clutching
at the air with his nervous fingers. "Would I
have a-let him rob me of ze prize? No, no,
no! not while this hand can wield a dagger!"

CHAPTER XXX.

THE HAUNTED CELLAR.

THE carriage did not proceed directly to the
lair of the Italians, but took a roundabout
course. This was done in order to baffle pur-
suits if any prying eye had been attracted to
the coach.

Through Grand street to Broadway they
went, up Broadway to Spring street, through
Spring to Crosby, directly past the dingy, two-
story brick house where the abductor oc-
cupied apartments; but did not stop. The route
had been carefully arranged beforehand, and the
object of driving past the house was to see if
the coast was clear. The street was dark,
almost deserted; fortune indeed seemed to fa-
vor the vile.

Straight around the block they drove until
they came again in front of the house; then
the colonel halted the horses; the man within
descended from the coach with the insensible
girl in his arms and entered the house.

The two men occupied the basement floor,
entrance to which was gained by a passage
under the front stoop.

At the moment the Italian and his precious
burden disappeared under the stoop, the colo-
nel drove off so as not to excite suspicion.

So far the plot had succeeded admirably;
the Bouquet-Girl was in their power, and the
abduction had excited no suspicion.

Everything had been carefully arranged, the
door to the basement was unlocked, also the
door leading from the entry to the front base-
ment. Within the room a coal-oil lamp, the
wick turned down, afforded a dim light.

The two rooms were scantily furnished; a
couple of chairs, an old table, two rude bunks
arranged upon the floor, some dilapidated
dishes, and that was all.

Rather an insecure prison-house for the cap-
tive girl, one would be tempted to exclaim,
considering that the two front windows, al-
though closely barred by heavy shutters, look-
ed right out upon the street, and that a single
woman's shrill scream—would be cer-
tain to alarm the neighborhood.

But the Italian had thought of all this; he
was playing for a heavy stake and had arranged
to win.

Below the basement was a cellar—a dark,
deep unwholesome pit, never used by the oc-
cupants of the house, for the landlord had not
only locked and nailed up the door which led
to it, but had absolutely taken the stairs away,
thus cutting off all access to the underground
region.

Good reason had the thrifty Italian who
owned the house for thus acting. Within the
narrow walls of the little house some ten
families were huddled, a family to every room,
all Italians, and the poorest of the poor, and
so it had been for the last few years—in fact,
ever since the Italian had bought the house;
and among these families had been many de-
spairing souls, and when the yoke of poverty
had pressed too heavily upon their necks, down
into the dark recesses of the cellar they had
gone and ended their wretched lives with their
own hands.

The house began to get an evil name; the
superstitious foreigners declared that the un-
quiet spirits of the men who had so wantonly
rushed into the presence of their Maker, haun-
ted the cellar; tenants began to move out and
seek other quarters.

In fact, so widely had the evil reputation of
the cellar extended that total strangers to the
house, but all Italians though, weary of life,
stole into the fatal vault, and there, with
their despairing hands, solved the problem of
existence by ending it.

No use to lock the door; these weary, reck-
less souls forced the portal open, and so, in a
rage, at last the landlord not only nailed the
door up as firmly as wood and metal would
permit, but took away the stairs bodily.

These stringent measures had the desired
effect, and the wretched men who were weary
of life, sought elsewhere for suitable places to
shuffle off the mortal coil.

Acquainted with all the particulars regard-
ing the vaults below, all access to which had
been so carefully cut off, the busy mind of the

Italian at once perceived how suitable a place
it would be to keep the girl securely. Once
she was safe in the cellar, little danger that
she could either escape or succeed in giving an
alarm.

The first thing was to gain access to the cel-
lar. The two men had formerly occupied a
room in the garret, but when the adventurer
formed the plan to abduct the girl, he thought
of the haunted excavation, so securely closed
to all the world; no better place to hide the
girl away could possibly be found.

And, as luck would have it, the two base-
ments over the cellar were unoccupied.

He at once set to work promptly; he hired
the front basement and the colonel the back
one; this was done so as not to excite suspi-
cion, which might have been raised if one man
had taken both rooms.

The basements secured, the next thing was
to cut a trap door in the floor and construct a
rude ladder, so as to get into the vault. This
was not a hard task, and was soon accom-
plished.

The cellar was damp and unwholesome, and
as dark as Egypt, but all this was so much the
better for the Italian's purpose. He had an
idea in his head which, developed into action,
he fondly fancied would prevent the girl from
attempting to alarm the neighborhood.

At the back of the subterranean apartment
a partition had been run across, and inside of
that, at right angles, another partition, thus
forming two small rooms, formerly devoted to
coal and wood.

High up in the wall in each of these apart-
ments there had been a small window. These
apertures for air and light the landlord had
boarded up when he had resolved to isolate the
vault from all the world, but, as the poor ten-
ants in the house were continually wrenching
off the boards for firewood, he had finally
bricked up the window-spaces solidly.

One of the little rooms had a good strong
door to it, and the wily Italian at once pitched
upon this apartment as the prison-pen for the
girl.

Removed as it was from the noise of the
street, and with only about six inches of the
top of the back wall abutting on the yard, and
that wall a good solid one, it would be almost
impossible for the girl to guess that she was
still in the midst of busy, bustling New York.

Upon the floor of the wood-room a rude bed
had been spread. A chair and a table com-
prised the rest of the furniture.

To render the door secure, the Italian had
affixed two stout bolts to the outside, one at
the top, the other at the bottom. A lantern,
too, he had provided, and a hook, attached to
a beam in about the center of the cellar,
whereon to swing it.

The door which led from the entry-way into
the basement had been provided with strong
locks and stout bolts; in fine, no measure of
precaution had been neglected.

Straight into the front basement the adven-
turer bore the girl, locked the door securely
behind him, placed her upon one of the rude
pallets spread upon the floor, and then turned
up the other, revealing the line of the trap-
door beneath. Thus he had concealed the trap
from any prying eyes.

The trap open, the gloomy vault below, il-
luminated only by the single light of the lantern,
was revealed.

Raising the light figure of the girl carefully
in his strong arms, the Italian descended the
ladder, and then, when he had gained the floor
below, he proceeded to deposit his precious
burden in the narrow room which his craft
had provided for her.

He placed her upon the rude couch, removed
the shawl which had been carefully wrapped
around her head, and then, fetching the lan-
tern, which he stood upon the table, he pro-
ceeded to carefully examine the condition of
the unconscious prisoner.

Quiet as the inmate of a tomb, the Bouquet-
Girl lay. At the first glance the Italian be-
lieved that she was dead.

"Diavolo!" he cried, in consternation; "if I
have killed her all ze fat is in ze fire! Was ze
drug too strong? Oh, no! I have used more
than that before; but perhaps she is
weaker than I thought. She may have been
afflicted with heart-disease; if so, ze drug
might produce a fatal effect. If ze is dead,
then am I a cheated man?"

No word of pity for the girl—no regret for
the perpetration of the foul outrage; only an
oath and a bitter thought that the half a mil-
lion of "dollars" would escape him, after all
his trouble.

But his apprehension was unfounded; the
girl was not dead, and slowly, little by little,
the color came back to her face.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE ITALIAN'S SCHEMES.

THE potent effects of the powerful drug
were gradually passing away, and the Italian
gloating over the prostrate form of his victim
—as the malignant-eyed Faust might have
gloated over a helpless soul, lost to virtue and
destined for fires eternal—saw that she would
soon wake to consciousness.

"It is good!" he murmured. "I was a-sure
that I did not make ze dose too strong. To
kill her now—to see her die at ze very moment
of victory—oh, no! that would be too terrible
a blow! She must live—live to give me my
share of that half a million of dollars."

The pale lips of the girl moved convulsively,
and a low sigh escaped from between the pearly
teeth.

"She will soon open her eyes, and then—
what then, ha?" mused the Italian. "Will she
cry out? will she scream, or will she accept her
fate and rest tranqui?"

These questions would be answered in a few
minutes, for already the victim was beginning
to recover her senses.

Slowly the dark eyes opened and stared in
astonishment about. The effect of the subtle
drug still lingered, and for a few moments the
girl's mind refused to work with its usual
clearness; but, little by little, the truth flashed
upon her; back to her mind came the memory
of what had transpired in the old tenement-
house. She remembered the use-age of the
Italian, the violent assault, and the application
of the potent drug to her nostrils.

The Bouquet-Girl was quick-witted, and now
that her mind had regained its customary
clearness she fully comprehended all that had
happened.

She glanced around her; the dim light east
by the lantern fully revealed the narrow com-
pass of her prison-house; and the lank figure of
the Italian, gazing down upon her with the
hollow, insincere smile so natural to his face,
betrayed the pitiless jailer.

"You have recovered from your illness—
ah! my dear child! in my heart I cry aloud
with gladness!" exclaimed the abductor, per-
ceiving that the girl was in full possession of
her senses. "Permit me to assist you to a-
rise!"

He advanced to her side; the girl accepted
the proffered arm, although she shuddered at
the contact.

The Italian noticed the convulsive move-
ment.

"You are a-cold!" he cried. "A hundred
thousand pardons that I have no better place
to offer you, but I am a-poor; what can I do?
We cannot conquer fortune, therefore we must
be content."

He assisted the girl to the chair placed by
the table upon which the canteen stood.

"Rest you there, my own stricken deer;
rest tranqui; do not fear; your father will
protect you against all ze world."

"Why have you brought me here, and
where am I?" Frank asked, gazing fearfully at
the dark, damp walls that surrounded her.

"If you remember, my child, I came to tell
you of Mister Craige; no sooner did his name
my lips escape than it seemed like one great
cannon-ball to strike you to ze heart; you
turned pale—you tottered—you cried in ac-
cents wild, 'I die, I die!—What was I to do?
You was my child! Was I to stand there like
a man of marble and see you a-suffocated, oh, no!
the feelings of a father that throb here in my
heart forbid it! I determined to bear you
away; I had this shelter to offer you, miles
away from ze great city where you were in
danger. Ah, my child—my dear child, there
is one grand plot against you."

"Against me?" The sentence came me-
chanically from the lips of the girl, for she did
not believe a single word that came from the
lips of the adventurer, one statement alone ex-
cepted. He might speak truth when he said
that she was many miles away from the city,
for since the interview in the tenement-house
hours seemed to have passed. The girl little
dreamed that thirty minutes would have cov-
ered the entire time.

"Yes, my dear child, against you," the Ital-
ian repeated

SONG.

BY A. W. BELLAU.

I saw them stand to sever,
And "Never!" did she say;
And never means forever—
Forever and away!

The bitter self-denial
How could she comprehend!
And the lifelong, fiery trial
That follows without end.

For at night she dreams about him,
And the morning brings the pain,
And the day is sad without him,
And she longs to sleep again.

I saw them stand to sever,
And "Never!" did she say;
And never means forever—
Oh, forever and away!

The Californians:
OR, THE
Rivals of the Valley of Gold.
A ROMANCE OF FEATHER RIVER.

BY JOSEPH E. BADGER, JR.

CHAPTER XVI.
A FAIR SUPPLIANT.

THROUGH the pass beyond the live-oak tree came a single rider, mounted upon a beautifully spotted mustang, whose limbs were now stretched out at full speed. Across the level space, over the bloody rifle-trench at a single bound, nor drawing rein until so near that the little group instinctively parted and fell back on either side lest they should be ridden down, she came, pale and breathless as though from a long and hard race against time. Never before had Inez Mendoza looked so gloriously beautiful as when she sprung to the ground and crouched beside the prostrate form of her father, one hand upon his blood-stained breast, the other grasping a brightly-flashing knife.

"He is my father, gentlemen," she uttered, at length, as none of the party seemed inclined to break the silence. "I came for him—we will go away and never trouble you again. I am sorry if he has injured any of you."

"I had a father an' four brothers when he first came on us," interrupted Zabdell Grey, in a strangely calm tone. "They's only us two, now. We can't fetch back the dead, but we kin take vengeance on the man as murdered 'em. Thar he lays. He belongs to us. Nobody kin take him away while we breathe. That is my say-so. An' yere we two stan', ready to make our words good, ag'in' one or ag'in' the hull crowd."

"You will gain no friends by insulting a lady," sternly interposed Ned Allen, stepping before Zabdell Grey. "We can make some allowance for your losses; but are you the only sufferer? Keep your tongue within bounds, or it may run you into trouble. This is not the first time I have had to warn you."

"Which nobody didn't ax you fer; mind that. You came without axin', an' ef you ain't suited with our ways o' doin' an' talkin', you kin go back to the States as you come. We ax no help from nobody; nor we don't low nobody to come atween us an' our duty. Now you've got it!"

"He means murder—I can see it in his eyes!" cried the maiden, crouching closer as though she would shield her father with her own life. "Senior, I appeal to you. You look like a honest man. You will not permit my father to be assassinated?"

"I can promise you that," quickly replied Allen. "I am a stranger here, and do not understand all the subtleties of this life. I can promise you justice, in the name of my comrades, as well. Will you trust me?"

The maiden looked full into his eyes, and there read his truth and honesty. She extended her hand, impulsively.

"I will trust you. Only—be merciful as well as just. He is my father—all I have to love on earth."

Ned Allen bowed without speaking. He did not dare trust his tongue just then, with those glorious eyes so near his own, and that warm clasp upon his hand.

Meanwhile, Jotham Grey had been conversing earnestly with his younger brother, whom he had drawn to one side. Apparently his arguments were not without effect, for Zabdell Grey cut in and more subdued.

Grumbling Dick Barnes, who possessed a slight spattering of surgical knowledge, was busied over the Californian, who was already recovering his senses. There was a long but not very deep knife-wound, slanting across his chest, two grades from pistol-shot, and a severe bruise upon the head. Loss of blood had weakened him, but his injuries were by no means dangerous. Half an hour later the wounds were all bandaged as neatly as circumstances would admit. By this time, the Californian had heard enough to realize the full force of his situation, and though he appeared but little concerned as to the result, there was an occasional quiver of his lip, an uneasy expression in his half-closed eyes.

During Grumbling Dick's ministrations, Ned Allen had held a consultation with his comrades, in which the two brothers joined. Jotham—for Zabdell scarcely opened his lips—firmly demanded that the prisoner be put upon trial; that the whole truth be told on both sides, and that, if he and Allen could not prove their case, the assassin should be handed over to them for punishment in proportion to his crimes.

Though sorely perplexed—and Ned was honest enough to secretly admit that the case would have been far less complicated had Inez not appeared, or even if she had been less dazzlingly beautiful—Allen could not deny that the brothers had a right to demand this trial, and admitted as much. After that the preliminaries were quickly completed, Dick Barnes pronounced his patient to be fully recovered, and as no man could tell what another hour might bring forth, it was decided to lose no more time.

"But first," said Allen, setting the example by removing the weapons from his belt, and laying them at a little distance upon the ground. "Let every man do as I do. There have been hard words between us already, and there may be more before all is done. To save trouble let us remove all temptation."

Only Zabdell made any objections, but a whispered word from Jotham subdued the young savage, and he quietly deposited his pistols, knife and rifle beside the other weapons.

Supported by his daughter, the Californian entered the little circle. In consideration of his weakness, he was permitted to rest himself upon a wooden bucket produced from the wagon for that purpose. Beside him stood his daughter, pale and anxious.

At a motion from Allen, Jotham Grey stepped forward and tersely narrated what had occurred from the moment of their entering the valley. He made no comments, attempted no rhetoric, but simply and strongly stated his case, then drew aside, after repeating his charge of deliberate and unprovoked murder against the prisoner.

But Zabdell was not satisfied with this tame speech. He flung aside the restraining hand of his brother and confronted Allen.

"I've got jest one word to say. We kem here to look for gold, jest as thousands o' others did. We found it by a accident. That man come an' swore it war his'n, an' talked to us like dogs. God made the gold free to all who could find it. We told him so, an' he rid away. What next? He steals upon us in the night. My brother war talkin' with his wife that war to be. He never gave us warnin'! But an' shot him like a dog, from the dark! But that ain't murder, then I'm a fool. The rest you know. That wasn't so bad. It war a fair fight, an' each man had to take his chances. But f'other war murder—

black, foul murder! An' it calls for blood! Thar I've said my say, an' I feel easier now."

"What have you to say in reply to these charges?" asked Allen of the Californian.

Don Estevan promptly arose, returning Zabdell's look of hatred with a scornful smile.

"I had intended to keep silent," spoke the Californian in a cold, even tone; "but in justice to myself I must speak a few words—not to answer those men, but to set myself right with you gentlemen. I have been accused of playing the part of a midnight assassin. That assertion I brand as a lie. On the night I was at home, in my own house, as my daughter here can testify. What I have done I am ready to admit. This land—as far as the eye can reach—is my property, purchased by my father and bequeathed to me at his death. I can produce the original paper, can prove my identity—when asked to do so by those whom I must upon equal terms. I warned these persons. They laughed at me. I gave them time—four and twenty hours. Then I visited them here, and repeated the warning. Again they refused, and persisted in trespassing. Then I treated them as such. Only for you gentlemen, I would have made my threats good. The rest you know. But, one word. You have espoused their cause, and made their quarrel yours. Now I warn you. This is my land. Go seek your gold elsewhere. You shall never succeed here. I have sworn it."

There was a momentary silence as the Californian ceased speaking, and which was broken by Inez, who earnestly corroborated the words of her father. He had been with her at the very time the murder was said to have been committed.

Allen whispered for a few moments with Harry Lane, who sat beside him, then stepped forward.

"There has been but one charge of murder, and I consider that the prisoner has shown himself wholly innocent of that crime. There has been much blood shed since, but all in fair fight, where life was pitted against life. I have lost five dear friends, and though I mourn their fate, I do not consider them murdered. I move, then, that we allow this man to go free—on one condition. Let him pledge himself to make no further trouble, to leave us in peace to depart or remain as we choose, to restrain his followers from molesting us. We will be satisfied with his word of honor to observe these conditions secretly. Have I spoken your thoughts, friends?"

Five men promptly responded ay, but the two brothers were sullenly silent. Their own words had even turned against them since they had acknowledged that only Elen had been assassinated. Then a stern glance of pleasure shot athwart their faces as the Californian spoke.

"You mean well, senior, but I decline to give that pledge. As long as I live, I will stand up for my rights. I have spoken. Now work your will."

"Wait!" said Inez as Allen was about to speak. "I will try and convince him that he is wrong. Give me one chance to save him—I implore you, upon my knees—see!"

Allen made a gesture of assent. He could not speak.

Gently Inez led her father aside, and then whispered rapidly in his ear. From beneath his long lashes the Californian shot a swift glance around. The spotted mustang whickered joyously and trotted up to its mistress. Had she made a signal, perceptible to it alone? If so, it promptly obeyed.

Zabdell and Jotham, with cries of suspicion, started forward. But they were too late. As adroitly as though never injured, Don Estevan sprung into the saddle and galloped swiftly away, with a shrill, mocking laugh.

Inez flung herself at full length across the pile of weapons, digging her fingers deep into the earth, the better to resist the angry grasp of the brothers. And it seemed as though she would succeed in her desperate plan, for the fugitive reached the live-oak tree ere she could be removed. But then—horse and rider fell heavily together, as a sharp report rung out from the bushes beyond.

CHAPTER XVII.
THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

GOSPEL GEORGE was like one stunned, stupefied, when his closest search failed to discover any trace of his hated enemy, fiery Fred. He had seen the man fall at the report of his pistol, and had such implicit faith in his hand and eye, and had such undivided attention to the remaining Night Riders. And yet, surely he would have noticed the outlaw chieftain had he fled with his surviving bandits. It was an enigma, and he could not help but wonder what had happened for the moment completely unnering him. But this was of brief duration. His indomitable spirit reassured itself. There was yet a chance. The outlaw surely was hurt—perhaps severely. He might still be overtaken ere he could reach his retreat.

With this hope growing in his heart and obliterating all other considerations, Gospel George struck off along the trail followed by the majority of the fugitives. Despite his almost frantic haste, he did not lose sight of the Californian, who he reasoned that fiery Fred would make the best of his way to his mountain retreat, where he could laugh at his enemies, with as little loss of time as possible, and of course would take the nearest practicable route.

Taking a wide circuit, Gospel George closely scrutinized the ground, carefully measuring every track; and finally his search was rewarded. The black frown deepened upon his face as he followed the trail for several hundred yards. The regularity of the footsteps, the length of stride, spoke only too plainly of the Californian. He knew that fiery Fred had escaped, the fight almost if not quite unscathed.

"The devil stan's by his own, but will it always be so? No, I can't believe that; if I did, I'd die cussin' heaven an' all that's in it. My time'll come soon. I'll must! I'm on his trail an' I'll never leave it ag'in' until it comes to a flat end fer the one or both on us. Don't be uneasy, old man. I'm a-comin', never fear! Ef I turn my back fer a minnit, it's only to git a better view."

He looked to his weapons, and found that only the little revolver taken from Paquita remained loaded. He had no other ammunition, no food, nothing in which to carry water. It would be rank folly for him to start along the trail so ill-equipped, and then to find a stronger arm than that of his daughter.

The two rode on in perfect silence, for several miles; then, seeing that Don Estevan bore up quite stoutly, Allen wished them a safe ride and drew rein. When nearly two hundred yards separated them, Inez suddenly wheeled and galloped back to his side, whispering in an agitated tone:

"I must see you again—at this spot, to-morrow morning!"

Then she galloped rapidly after her father.

legged critter gits low down enough to steal me—"

"Easy, stranger—jest b'ar in mind, ef you please, that my Roxy Ann is of the she-mule persuasion. I'd rather ax coyote hash fer a livin' than to hear any o' her 'lutions' bused by chicken hes. A mule, feller-citizens, is a livin' monument o'—"

"We'll take your word for it, old man," bluntly interposed Allen. "Just now we have more important business on hand than—"

"Listening to a feller praisin' up his own family," grinned Barnes, parenthetically.

"Drop that, Dick—this is no time for nonsense. Catch hold and help carry the prisoner back to camp. And you, stranger, keep with us. I don't doubt but you can explain everything satisfactorily; at least I sincerely trust so."

"I kin explain anythin' short of a woman," coolly responded Gospel George, as he followed the little party on to camp.

Inez, trembling like a leaf, met them halfway, sobbing pitifully over her parent, whom she believed dead. Allen sought to comfort her, but with little success, until the rude restoratives—whisky and cold water from the lake—freely used by Grumbling Dick, restored the Californian's senses.

The sudden and unexpected reverse, when he felt freedom in his very grasp, was not without its effect upon Don Estevan, and his proud spirit was perceptibly shaken. Ned Allen wisely left him alone with Inez, after she had been disarmed of her father, believing that her entreaties would have more effect upon him than any threats.

Meanwhile Gospel George, if not accused, had rather sharply been requested to explain his part in the recent night's work when the prospectors had left foot in the mountains, and to his movements and the queries of the questers in good part, feeling that, considering all circumstances, the prospectors had fair cause for suspecting him to have been in league with the horse-thief. In his own peculiar style, he gave his explanation, yet with a clear and hard I that carried conviction to the hearts of his hearers.

He recalled his suspicions of the pretended Sorrel-top, of his secret watch and of what followed. Of his following the trail, of the ambush, the capture, his vain attempt at escape, of the interview with fiery Fred and all that ensued, concealing nothing save his own mission of vengeance.

"An' now you've got the hull re-cord," he added, quietly. "I fellered them here. I saw somebody—I didn't know 'twan you fellers until it was all over—was in a pesky tight box, an' so I jest sallied in fer all that was out. I reckon I killed half a hundred o' the imps afore they pucked up. I'd 'a' wiped out the hull lot, only I didn't like to act the hog. They skeedaddled, an' I fellered 'em. You fellered 'em, too, ef you fellered 'em, they're yere'n. Turn abouts a fair play; fiery Fred tack your mules; now you kin take his hosses."

"But you captured them?"

"I give 'em to you fellers, fer thinkin' me a hoss-thief an' ornary dead-beat boss," grinned Gospel George. "Ef they was mules, now! No, boys; thar they stan'. Take 'em or leave 'em; I don't keer a b'usted cap either way. They's only one four-legged critter fer me—an' that's Roxy Ann. Ef I can't git her, I don't want no other. I'm g'in' to hev her, gentlemen, ur bust somethin' wide open—you hear me?"

At this moment Inez left her parent's side and slowly, timidly approached Ned Allen. It was with a diffident air that she spoke to him.

"You offered him—my father, senior—you offered him terms, which he refused. He sees clearer now, and would accept, if he could be assured—"

"I was very glad, for your sake, lady," hastily uttered Ned, and he managed to squeeze her little paw, with a good deal of feeling. "God knows, there has been enough bloodshed already; and if he will pledge us his sacred honor—"

"Just wait one minnit, stranger," bluntly interrupted Zabdell Grey. "I want you an' the hull crowd to hear a few words I've got to say to the—the prish'er, afore he binds himself to anythin'." 'Twon't take long."

The young savage then, and strode to the Californian, who stood in silence until the others gathered around. Then, in a low, passionate voice, he spoke:

"I ax your pardon fer callin' you a murderer, a bit sense. You're a whiter man than I thes, an' you libber a kinder ef you han's. My father an' two o' my brothers is dead—on one man is a-dyin'. Only fer you they would all be alive now. I'm only a boy, but I give you this warnin'. After this hour, to-morrow, look out fer yourself. I'm g'in' fer yer skelp. A word to the wise is soon learned. You two hev got to die, afore I know rest or peace. Look at me well, an' b'ar my words in mind. This airth ain't big enough fer us both. You must kill me or I'll kill you, sure as thar's a God Heavens above."

There was a brief silence as the young man who had proclaimed himself the avenger of the dead, turned away. Then the Californian spoke. He pledged his sacred honor not to molest the gold-hunters in any way, shape or form, nor to hinder any of his followers to injure them. And as he ended, he nodded to Inez. She produced a small cross from her bosom and held it to his lips.

Ned Allen stooped and severed his bonds, assisting him to arise, saying:

"You are a son of a gun, senior, to go where you choose. If we cannot forget the unfortunate past, at least let us keep it from our lips."

He hastened to where the captured horses were still standing, and selected three, releasing them from the rest. Upon one he placed the saddle taken from the spotted mustang. At first the Californian refused the animals, but as he attempted to walk proudly away, he was forced to acknowledge his injuries. Allen assisted them both to mount, then sprang upon his own horse.

"I will ride a little distance with you, senior."

"There is no need," was the rather sharp reply.

"Pardon me," persisted Allen. "You are severely injured. The effort may be too much for you, and then you would need a stronger arm than that of your daughter."

The two rode on in perfect silence, for several miles; then, seeing that Don Estevan bore up quite stoutly, Allen wished them a safe ride and drew rein. When nearly two hundred yards separated them, Inez suddenly wheeled and galloped back to his side, whispering in an agitated tone:

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CHAPTER XVIII.
AN ABRUPT AWAKENING.

THE young gold-hunter sat like one in a maze, staring at the rapidly receding figure of the fair rider, scarce venturing to breathe until she, accompanied by her father, disappeared from view around an evasive point of rock. And even then it was some little time before his senses began to clear, and he could reflect with tolerable calmness upon what had really occurred.

From his first glance, Ned Allen had been strongly attracted by, and interested in, the fair Californian, not altogether by her rich, almost Oriental beauty, but also through her actions during the trial of her parent. Still, though deeply impressed, there is little doubt but Ned would have parted with Inez that evening, and have returned to his camp without more than a passing thought of admiration, and never have suspected how narrowly he had escaped falling in love at first sight, had not Inez returned to his side with the whispered words already recorded.

It was not so much the words themselves as the tone in which they were spoken, the richly beautiful face bending so close to his that he could feel the warm breath upon his cheek, while those wondrously bright, speaking eyes seemed to look down into his very heart, setting his young blood afire, sending it coursing through each vein until he tingled and quivered, and "felt all over in spots," as he, himself, would have said.

"I'll do it—if it kills me!" he muttered, at length, wrenching around his horse's head, and retracing his steps toward camp. "If I only had some decent clothes!"

Poor Ned! That one last glance, brief though it was, had hit him hard, indeed. He forgot all else, for the moment, allowing his horse to pick its own way, nor noticed that the animal had veered from the direct course to the golden valley, and was pacing rapidly along an unknown trail to its master's tent. A course that would, if pursued, lead them direct to the mountain retreat of fiery Fred and his satellites.

But then came an interruption, sudden, sharp, and startling enough, though for the moment he could scarcely define it. A shock, a scrambling plunge of his horse, and then a fall, where, but by instinct than any conscious effort, his part, Ned alighted on his feet, clear of the convulsive plunging of his prostrate steed. A musket-shot seemed ringing in his ears, and there came a hoarse shout of vindictive rage. But to shield his person, another instant, and his revolver was speaking venomously, and, like magic, the enemy disappeared from view, sinking behind the bowlders lying conveniently near.

The reverberating echoes died away, and in the deathlike silence that ensued, Ned Allen had an opportunity to realize his position, to sum up the chances for and against him. The prospect was not reassuring. The odds were against him, four to one, and they also had the advantage of position. The bowlders and fragments of rock lay thickly around them. It would be mere child's play for them to steal from one to another of these coverts, so quickly that a bead could not be drawn upon them. The men in turn could easily prevent the miner from shifting his position, while their comrades would as easily flank him, since twenty-five yards on either hand would expose him fully to their fire-arms.

Thus far had Ned Allen summed up the chances, and when he had heard himself hailed from the front in a cool, jeering tone of voice.

"You mought as well come out, young feller. We've got the under-grip onto ye, an' they ain't a mite o' use in kickin'. Throw down your weapons an' mebbe we'll let you off the casual fer it."

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"If you want them so bad, better come and take them," retorted Ned, keeping a keen look-out upon first one side and then the other. "I helped to lick you once, and I'm just man enough to do it again on my own hook. Put that in your pipe, stranger."

"Take your own way, boss. I was jest speakin' fer your own good. Ef you'd rather besat down thar like a hog in a pen, good enough; you shall have your wish in jest five minutes. But you'll like a major over yonder, an' I s'pose 'lowed you'd rather go under man-fashion."

"Thank you for nothing!" laughed Allen, though, it must be confessed, he felt anything but hilarious. "I reckon I'll stand the racket while I am."

His last words were blended with the report of his pistol, as he caught a momentary glimpse of a dark figure among the rocks. But a jeering laugh told him that his bullet had been wasted. And then his shot was echoed back from the other flank.

He felt a stinging shock, and fell backward with an angry cry, clasping both hands over his face. It seemed as though the bullet had seared both his eyeballs, the pain was so intense.

Yet, despite this, he heard the wild yell of vindictive triumph, heard the heavy feet slipping and sliding among the loose slate, and knew that the outlaws were crowding forward to complete their work. Instinctively he arose and mechanically groped around for his pistol. But his eyes were sightless.

He heard a wild, shrill shout, mingling with a rifle-shot; and then what seemed to be the voices of a dozen different men, uttering horrible threats, strung together with oaths and curses, screeches and other outlandish noises, enough to raise the dead.

He brushed one hand across his smarting eyes, and the bloody mist seemed to partially clear away. He caught a glimpse of a tall figure bounding toward him, and drew his knife with the desperate air of despair. The figure halted beyond arm's-length, and exclaimed, admiringly:

"Ef he don't want to fight the old man too, I'm a liar! Good Lawd! boy, hain't ye got a plenty to do ye fer awhile?"

"Gospel George!"

"Tain't nobody else, honey! Did ye think I was gwine to let ye hev all the fun? Not much! I jest let ye git a mouthful, an' then I waded in heavy. Did ye hear any brass band? I reckon them boys are playin' a hull infernal rignment war comin' to jine in the funeral. I jest let myself loose. I fit out right an' left, up an' down, tooth an' toe-nail, an' jest nat'rally chawed up the hull dog-goned outfit!"

"You killed them?"

"Not all. Ef I got a fallin'—an' mind ye, honey, I don't lay claim to bein' paritict—ef I've got a fallin', it's that o' bein' too marfical to them what don't deserve it. I jest laid out twenty-three on 'em, booted 't others all round about, an' bungled 'em fer—ge-thin' what ye didn't you tell a fellow you was killed!"

cried, as Allen stumbled over a stone and fell to the ground.

With wonderful gentleness the rough old hunter examined the young man's injuries, with a sigh of relief as he found them so trivial. The outlaw's bullet had flattened against the bowlder behind which Allen was crouching, filling his face with bits of lead and splinters of rock, stunning him for the moment, but working him no injury beyond a few scratches and a temporary loss of sight. Yet the old man held his tongue until he had cleared away the blood and dust, and bathed Ned's eyes with water from his canteen.

"Thar! you'll be all right by mornin'! Tain't like it was with me, once. Was gwine to buy a keg o' powder. Didn't like its looks, much, an' like a fool I stooped down to smell of it. I was smokin' a see-gar, too. That's one time I was fooled, bad. The powder was good—I never see a keg go off quicker'n that did! 'Twas a week ago, I got the smoke fairly outen my eyes—fact!"

"I don't see—" muttered Allen, still confused, gazing around him. "You said you killed—"

"Could 'a' done it, honey; don't make no mistakes," interrupted Gospel George, reprovingly. "Give all sinners time to pent o' thar evil doin's—them's my motto. I jest marked 'em. I made 'em toe a line an' putt a ragged bullet through thar years. That's one o' my secrets. When a critter gits shot thar, they're bound to pent; they jest gitses all they've got to the poor, an' then goes an' grows up into parsons an' lawyers an' sich like. I reckon I've made nigh a thousan'!"

"There is one—look!" cried Allen, pointing to where, at a dusky figure, was leaning against a bowlder. "He is not dead yet!"

"He soon will be, then," said Gospel George, in a voice that sounded strangely cold and stern after his rollicking talk, as he strode forward and stooped over the dying wretch. "Look up,

Eph Perkins. Look me square in the eye an' see ef you kin remember who I be. Hamilton!" gasped the outlaw.

"Him as was George Hamilton afore you an' your mates made me what I be. I swore the death-hunt on ye then, an' I've kep' my word."

With a grating curse the dying wretch thrust a revolver fairly against the avenger's breast, and pulled the trigger.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 391.)

Base-Ball.

BY HENRY CHADWICK.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WHAT a change has taken place in base-ball matters in Philadelphia within the past three years. In 1875 it was regarded as a lucky chance to get in a match with the Athletics, as a sure return in gate receipts was invariably the result. But pool-selling and gambling influences have so lowered the standard of professional play in the Quaker city since then, that now the local journals try to draw clubs to Philadelphia by such remarks as this: "First-class clubs will find Philadelphia a paying city to visit." This is the regular announcement from county-town co-operative clubs.

The Cincinnati Enquirer thus refers to the Rochester men and their conduct in Cincinnati:

"Cincinnati people are always glad to welcome gentlemen as bright as the sun; but when a club rides through our streets and its ladies should not be encouraged to return. The Rochesterers, it is said, conducted themselves very ungentlemanly in passing through Cincinnati yesterday and to the grounds. Such conduct is calculated to injure the national game in the estimation of respectable people, and the managers of the Rochesterists should accompany the club or keep them at home."

This tendency to rowdiness on the part of base-ball players—amateurs more than professionals—is a growing evil. With some clubs it has got to be a regular habit to be profane and even obscene in their language in the field; especially is this the case with the gangs who play ball on Sunday.

The Louisville Courier says: Devinney has been abused in round terms by the press of Chicago and St. Louis, particularly the Tribune and Globe-Democrat, and this abuse has even been extended to some of the Eastern papers, which take the evidence against him on hearsay; but he is, nevertheless, the fairest umpire toward visiting clubs, and more thoroughly posted as to the duties of the position, than any one else in the city.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, in its report of the Cincinnati-Louisville 7 to 4 game, says: "Devin was pounded fearfully to-day, and the Louisville only hit Mitchell in one inning."

As Dundreary would say, "What deuced nonsense that is, you know." The idea of a pitcher's being "fearfully pounded" in a game in which but one run was earned and only seven base hits made from his pitching. The Louisville punished the Cincinnati pitcher for but four base hits, but those hits earned three runs. It was Mitchell who was badly punished not Devin. The Louisville lost the game by inferior field play.

The Rochester Democrat very pointedly says that "off days"—days marked by poor plays in the field—are too generally the result of "off nights." That's so.

McCormick, of Brooklyn—the Buckeye change pitcher—has been engaged for 1878 by the Indianapolis nine. The Indianapolis Sentinel says of him:

"He is one of the best in the profession, having less base-bits made off him to the game than any other man that fills the position. Besides being an excellent ball-player, he is a gentleman, and is what the Indianapolis club needs just at present."

The Pittsburg Dispatch of Sept. 15th says: "Jack Hatfield, who has been selling since the tournament began, at the St. Clair Hotel, left last evening for New York, leaving behind him, however, enough money to pay all the tickets out. It was asserted that he went there for the purpose of hedging heavily on the Indianapolis club in to-day's game. The regular gamblers have been left on every game thus far, and they say that an inside ring have set the whole business up and knew how each game would turn out before it was played."

Where there is pool-selling in direct connection with a professional ball-ground, there will be crooked play.

Those papers which, in their base-ball reports, are perpetually abusing players or umpires or some rival writer, should bear in mind the words of the old song:

"Pray, Goody, please to moderate
The rancor of your tongue;
Where'er you find the judgment weak
The prejudice is strong."

A special dispatch to the Boston Globe of Sept. 15th, says:

Boston, Mass., September 14.—From 3,000 to 4,000 interested spectators assembled at the City Common this afternoon to witness the first game of base-ball ever played in this city, the contestants being the Augustus of Augustus, and a picked nine from this city. Outler's pitching was very effective, not giving the Augustus a base-hit until the last inning, up to which time the score stood 15 to 0.

The Bostonians should drop in upon the Bangor people.

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To Commence in Our Next!

Margoun, the Strange;

OR,
Gilbert Grayling's Young Wife.

BY DR. WM. MASON TURNER,

AUTHOR OF "MASKED MINER," "COLLEGE RIVALS," "\$50,000 REWARD," ETC.

With action almost wholly laid in New York City and at "Grayling Grange"—a magnificent estate on Lake Ontario, the author presents equally strange characters, strange incidents and strange situations. The hates of

Two Vengeful Brothers—

the wiles and arts of

A Beautiful Adventuress—

the strength and weakness of

A Deluded Old Man—

the antagonists of beauty,

The Blonde and Brunette—

the man of noble soul,

The Master of the Lodge—

the noble devotion of

Margoun, the Strange,

a Hindoo Prince in disguise, all are unusually strong and effective *dramatis personae*, whom the author, in his usual intense narrative style, leads through the mazes of a singularly exciting and powerful life drama. It will be given a hearty welcome.

Sunshine Papers.

Of Something To Do.

"Of something to do?" Yes, of something to do that will make your own room bright and beautiful, and the whole house bright and beautiful, if you are persevering and kind-hearted. Why, the dining-room, and the sitting-room, and the parlor, and the kitchen—if you have a home containing all these rooms, if not the one room that you have—may be made so like fairy-land, by your kind fingers and a little daily care on your part, that father will grow young again; and mother's sad face will brighten into constant joyousness; and Biddy will be cross less often when the stove doesn't draw well and the ironing hangs about several days over its wonted time; and the boys will ask their friends to "drop in and spend the evening" instead of always taking up their hats to "go see a fellow" as soon as supper is ended. And this "something," if done with a kindly desire to make home more beautiful, to foil temptation by purifying influences, to give pleasure to the brothers and the sisters, the gentle mother and the careworn father, the invalid friend and the faithful servant, will count for as much, ay, more! before the Eternal Justice, as many a rich man's alms.

"Of something to do." And how shall you commence? Well, first the woodland, and the rocky, shady bits of roadside, shall help you. Bring home a basket full of roots of ferns, and vines, and all the plants that are small and pretty and grow in wild shady places; and another basket full of the rich black mold that you can dig up in the woods; and another basket full of green mosses. Now go in the garret, and hunt among the rubbish, and see what treasures you can find there. Bring down all the old baskets, and small shallow wooden boxes; and, if you cannot find those, get a wire ox-muzzle, or a deep earthen dish. Baskets and wire receptacles must be completely and compactly lined with moss, the green side showing through the wicker work.

Next fill with mold, and your wild ferns, and plants and vines, and grasses, and finish the top with a layer of moss. Your boxes and earthen dishes need only moss at the top. The boxes may be papered, or painted, or covered with bits of gay cloth. In deep window-seats, where there is not too much sun, or on little old tables (their shabbiness hidden by a cover), or in out-of-the-way corners of the room—upon a bit of board or oilcloth—distribute your fern boxes and dishes; they will not need sunshine, only a daily sprinkling, to make them flourish nicely. Baskets may be stood upon an old plate; or baskets and muzzles may be suspended from door or window-frames, in corners, or under arches. Hold a basin under and give them a daily sprinkling. The iron brackets used for bird-cages will hold them nicely.

Having put graceful bits of woodland all about the house, you can fill other boxes for the window-sills, with such bright flowers as geraniums, fuchsias, pansies, verbenas, coleus, pinks, bouvardias, heliotropes, lantanas, all of which will grow from slips. Petunias, German ivy, sedums, lobelia, yellow myrtle, Kenilworth ivy, money-wort, oxalis, and the plant

known as the Wandering Jew, introduced about the edges, will grow in a luxuriant, graceful, downward mass, hiding the sides of your window-boxes. A few seeds of alyssum, mignonette, nasturtiums and gypsophila, scattered about the edges, will also add to the beauty of your window gardens. If you cannot afford to buy your roots, any friend who has a few flowers will break you off some slips, which will soon furnish you all the plants you desire.

Next you must ornament the centers and the ends of the mantles, the bare spaces on bureaus and buffet, the unoccupied corners of tables, the deserted corners in rooms, and the wall brackets. Common flower-pots, tin cans that have been emptied of corn or tomatoes (covered around with flannel), odd pieces of glass or china, or old-fashioned jars, will answer your purpose, now. Fill them with rich earth and a plant in each. Begonias (there are many varieties, and all are lovely, and grow easily) and fuchsias make charming ornaments for the center of mantles, or to stand on tables, bureaus, etc., as they need no sun—only considerable water. A petunia on one end of the mantle will droop gracefully downward, while a jar containing German-ivy upon the opposite end will afford an opportunity for training the ivy quite around any picture that hangs near. A pot of lobelia with its pretty vine and azure flowers will ornament a corner of a parlor table; jars of Wandering Jew or Kenilworth ivy will grow profusely in any lone corner, and a plant of yellow myrtle set on a bracket will soon droop to the floor.

The little wooden wall-pockets that come for holding combs and brushes, sponges, letters, etc., may be lined with bright paper; then insert a tiny tin box, or wooden box, and hung under pictures and planted with vines. The effect, against light or white walls, is delightful. A single root of fern, planted in a jar, is extremely pretty on a shelf or bracket. Broken goblets and cups should have a covering crocheted for them, of gay wool, and be suspended from racks, windows, etc., and filled with earth, and ivy, sedum, lobelia, or some such graceful plant. Shells may be suspended in like manner; or shallow ones be planted and used to ornament brackets.

With a few seeds, a few slips of flowers, a few ferns and wild vines and plants, some old boxes, baskets, odds and ends of crockery and glass, and discarded tin cans, a little ingenuity expended in hiding defects with paint or flannel covers, plenty of rich mold and water, and a little daily patience and care to cut off faded blooms and dead leaves, and administer water, any home may be made most charming. Who will undertake to do something in the way of winter-gardening? Knowing that it will prove a fountain of perpetual pleasure, and a panacea against many a mental and physical ail, that many a reader may act upon this "something to do," and with glorious results, is one of the best wishes for her friends that can be breathed by

A PARSON'S DAUGHTER.

SHOW AND SENSE.

"THIRTY-FIVE or forty yards of silk are required by a first-class dressmaker for a short street costume." And when the bill is presented to papa won't he be somewhat short in his remarks! Won't it cause him to become short of funds just then and there! I'll wager my week's salary that he'll inwardly wish all "first-class dressmakers" in the Dead Sea. Surely, if a piece of silk will constitute the happiness of womankind she should be thankful when she has forty yards in one dress, but I don't believe she's one whit happier, one bit more contented than a rosy-cheeked lass that lives in the country and whose dress—of calico—cost but ten cents a yard and twelve yards was considered entirely sufficient.

To be sure, she isn't what you'd call "stylish," she has the singularity to be contented with her lot; she's just odd enough to be willing to help her mother, and she is so "strange" that you cannot get her mind to run on fripperies and fashions. Of course, you who wear those forty yards of silk wouldn't like her, and if you were to come to see her she'd not envy you one bit. She'd tell you that she had seen more beautiful sights than your fine dresses. She wouldn't miss seeing the sun rise of a summer morning for all the good clothes in the world. Her life is one exemplification of happiness, and it is so full of the good and useful that she causes others to be as happy. While others are at their late balls and parties she is sound asleep to refresh her for her morning duties. "It is not fashionable to arise early," may be you exclaim. Then why, when there are so many new fashions springing up, cannot some one set the "fashion" of early rising, and see that all who can follow it will do so. We might think more of the glories of nature and less of the amount of goods fashion dictates that we shall carry about us.

But, this amount of cloth requires many hands in the making of it up, and gives work to those in need of it! Yes, truly so; but at what ruinous pay—scarcely enough to keep soul and body together. Many tears have been shed over those very stitches. If these dresses could but speak, how many tales of suffering could they not tell! When the amount of cloth required for our dresses is enlarged, enlarge the amount you pay for the making up of the same. Does the fashionable dressmaker pay her workmen in proportion to the amount she receives herself?

Now let me comment on another. Why do we think every new fashion "charming"? If the Dame says we must be cramped into a dress so tight that we can scarcely move, don't we say, and think, "the fashion is splendid and the style most becoming"? And if Dame Fashion puts her veto on tight skirts, and tells us we must be arrayed in flowing, balloon-like garments, don't we turn up our noses at tight clothes and pronounce the opposite style "almost too sweet for anything"? This Dame Fashion is exacting, arbitrary and oftentimes bold in her demands, and we weak—sometimes silly—creatures appear to be afraid of her, and yield to her sway without a murmur. If a woman sets her mind entirely on fashion, and lives for show, certainly she must have enough to do to occupy her attention, but she must have a long purse as well.

Nowadays, one must have a special dress for every day and every season, and there are many persons who wear a party dress but once. I was remarking to a lady friend of mine the other day, that the women of the Revolution were no doubt happier with their two or three garments than we are with our forty-yard silk dresses. She laughed at the idea, called those good women "old-fashioned," and stated that they could not be mentioned with us of our day. Perhaps not; for I'll be bound they were far better and more contented than we. And did they make noble wives and mothers? Did they run hither and you after the fashions, while their husbands and sons were fighting for their homes? What true, noble and patriotic women they were, and if we had but some of their spirit—some of their sense we might be a little better for being

somewhat old-fashioned. They deserve to be honored and revered by us. Love of country and not fashion was their maxim. They lived to work and not for show. EYE LAWLESS.

Foolscap Papers.

Artemus Ward on the Train.

I WAS on the cars once. It was a good many years ago, though. I was going up to Podunk to collect sixteen dollars which a man owed me there, the expenses of the trip would be fifteen dollars, but I needed the other dollar. In the seat behind me sat the venerable Artemus Ward, quietly looking out of the window in hopes of seeing a funeral procession along somewhere that he might try to make himself feel solemn. His wax-figures were in the baggage car. By-and-by, a sanctimonious-haired colporteur came in, took a seat by him, and presented him with a tract. Not to be outdone in politeness Ward presented him with his card.

The tract peddler said he had heard of the name somewhere. Wasn't he the man who traveled with a circus or a show or something worldly? The same. He shook hands with him, and asked him how he was getting along. Artemus smiled and said:

"At the rate of forty miles an hour."

After this the sedate colporteur was confiding and conversational, and from time to time I caught the following:

(Small station.)
ARTEMUS. "This is the place where John Nixon resides."

COLPORTEUR. "John Nixon? I think I never heard of the name. Who is he?"

WARD. "The gentleman I refer to is a shoemaker. You see his sign over on that shanty!"

COL. "Oh, yes."

COL. "This is pretty fast riding."
WARD. Yes, but on a road in Indiana I once rode so fast that you could not see the farms along the road. The train cast no shadow because the sun couldn't get a chance to fall on it. I put my hand out of the window and the wind took my finger rings off. We were going west from Baldwinville to Briggs' Station, forty miles distant, and I tell you what's a fact, we got there two minutes before we started by the clock there. Ran over a man on the track, but he never recollected the circumstance, it was so sudden. The towns along the line looked like one city straight along. We went so fast, sir, that the present moment seemed to be a week back. The whole train was off the rails more than half the time. Boy fell off hind car, but the section behind prevented him from falling to the ground until some one reached out and grabbed him. Oh, it was a big ride."

COL. "It was indeed, sir."

COL. "Do you use tobacco?"
WARD. "Oh, yes. Do you wish a chew?" (handing him a plug twist).
COL. "No, no, I thank you. I never touch it."
COL. "Do you ever read instructive tracts?"
WARD. "Oh, no. But I have an excellent friend who does."
COL. "This is a nice-looking town."
WARD. "It is indeed. I lectured here last winter. Audience couldn't have been bigger if it had been doubled. Everybody was there, and those who couldn't come stayed away. Even the landlord was there and was seen to laugh. Everything was thrown upon the stage. Ladies who had nothing to throw threw kisses. Only one thing occurred to mar the occasion; a deacon attempted to swallow everything I said and was choked. They carried him out on a stretcher. When I got through they had me deliver the lecture over again, and every one said they got more time for the money than they ever had got in their lives."

COL. "Indeed?"

COL. "What makes them stop here so long?"
WARD. "You see, this is the accommodation train, and we had a temperance lecturer aboard, and the train will stop here to allow him to fulfill an engagement here, and passengers can save a good deal of time by walking ahead if they are in a hurry. I once rode in a train in Illinois that went so slow they had to make a chalk-mark on the track to tell which way it was going. It is a fact, sir. And as it was dark a man coming up a saloon last against the rear car and nearly killed himself. Why, they had to hire passengers to ride on it."

COL. "That corn looks bad there."

WARD. "It certainly does. The cobs in the first place were planted too far apart. You see you have got to have your corn-stalks close enough together that they can whisper in each other's ears and chin each other up. That's the way we do in Indiana. When we go to harvest our corn we bump the corn trees and catch the grain as it falls to the ground in large canvas spreads. A very little of our corn will make a bushel. They have manufacturing there to make the silk up into dress goods, and a fine article it makes. It is bound to supersede silk-worms."

COL. "Well, well. It must be a great country."

WARD. "Yes, it is very large."

COL. "Are you fond of music, Mr. Ward?"
WARD. "I could live on it—with a few variations. Everything turns to music on my ear, and I can bring music out of any thing I touch. I used to play very sweetly on that intricate instrument they call a hotel gong. It was music that had the very best accompaniments. The boards listened for it with the most intense interest, and often encored it with the clapping of hands. I know of no more stirring musical instrument to put a crowd into ecstasies than the morning gong. Of course time is the main thing in that kind of music. You want no false time. A little too soon, as I as a little too late. I know of no musical instrument in all my travels that could move a whole home so completely as a gong. It has a wide range—principally from the cellar to the garret of a six-story house, and its tones never grow old, and it is always in order. I would give money to hear the melodious notes of one at the present time. It would be music most acceptable. God bless the man who first invented it, and the man who first rings it to-day."

COL. "Your show is principally wax-figures?"

WARD. "Yes, they are portraits of people who figure the most in the present age; Judas Iscariot, Shylock, Benedict Arnold, Nero, John A. Murrill, Pontius Pilate, Herod, and other celebrities. I was showing in Hardensville last month and discovered a deacon hammering

away most industriously at the head of Judas Iscariot, and his wife and family egging him on. I was disposed to venture near and inquire the cause of all that popular tumult, when I was informed in short order that the deacon was irritated at having his statue set up for Judas, and I saw that there was quite a family resemblance between them, or at least there had been. I gently admonished him to cease, though the admonishment floored him, and he got up looking like the likeness of Iscariot more than ever. He needed a new nose of the most improved pattern, and a new eye would not have hurt his appearance very much. He was tenderly led away. The show business was extremely lively for awhile, and I did not charge them anything to get out, not a cent. During the row somebody hit Julius Caesar in the stomach and doubled him up, but we warmed him over and laid him out on a board and straightened him out again until he felt as well as ever. Any one who insults one of my wax-figures to its face insults me, and all international negotiations between us cease on the spot. For Napoleon's sake I have fought more battles than he ever did himself. If they are wax they are not made to be chewed up, in the least. I'm naturally as peaceable as a mother-in-law, but I don't want anybody to sit down on me without due notice according to law."

COL. "Before I get off here will you not take a few tracts, Mr. Ward?"

WARD. "I will. Thank you. Though when I find that I am in need of any thing of that kind I sit down and write my own. I'll do most anything to oblige you. Good-day."

Here the colporteur left the train, and Artemus went to fishing for a cinder in his eye.

WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Topics of the Time.

—There are in Texas 96,000,000 acres of cotton territory; that is some 15,000 square miles; and the whole were judiciously cultivated, the yield ought to be at least 50,000,000 bales per annum.

—High ritual is on the increase in London. Thirty-nine churches now celebrate daily communion, against 11 last year; 340 have eucharistic vestments, against 114; 35 have eucharistic vestments, against 14; 33 display candles on the altar, and since 1867 the use of incense has been extended from three churches to sixteen.

—"The Bashi Bazouks are wild beasts!" exclaimed the Grand Duke Nicholas, when an envoy from Mehmet Ali's camp opened negotiations with him concerning the treatment of the Bulgarian population. "Oh!" was the response, "I am not expected to defend them. I always take an escort myself when I must pass through their camp."

—It is stated in the *New Northwest* that at the battle of Big Hole, Sergeant Wilson, who appears to have been the conspicuous hero among the enlisted men, was shot at by one young buck whom he had passed, laid down his gun, picked up the young red-skin by the ankles, wound him around on a sapling at one swing, and again passed on.

—"Fourteen years ago," says the *Venango Spectator*, "when the oil fever was at its height, Pithole was the largest and thirteenth of the oil towns. Its post-office delivery was enormous, ranking the third in the State. Last November the borough of Pithole polled only six votes, equally divided between the two parties, and last Monday the survivors of the great oil metropolis of other days petitioned the court for a dissolution of its charter. Such is life."

—His Majesty King George, the King of Dahomey, is said to have jumped for joy when he heard of the loss of the oil he had been induced to pay for by bad treatment of British subjects, and when he heard that the Sirins had broken down and was compelled to return to England, his delight was unbounded. He attributed both these events to "fetish," and believes his powers of working evil upon his enemies are great indeed.

—A mineral has been found in Kern county, Cal., which is puzzling the geologists, no one knowing what to call it. It is opaque; in color tin white; luster, metallic; laminated; soft; yields to the finger nail; leaves a streak the color of amalgam on the back of looking glasses; it is unchanged by a heat which reduces a Hungarian crucible; is perfectly insoluble in nitric or muriatic acids or any of their combinations, and has a specific gravity about equal to that of mispickel.

—The Moffett registering machines have been introduced into nearly all the bar-rooms in Richmond. The price of alcoholic liquors has been advanced five cents and new glasses holding ten per cent. less beer are used. The liquor dealers have abolished the credit system and now do business only on a cash basis. A State official who is known throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, went into a saloon last Monday and called for a glass of lager. It was delightfully cool and he was about three minutes in swallowing it, after which he wiped his lips with his handkerchief and eyed the bartender suspiciously. "You forgot to turn the crank," said he, quite sternly. "Yes, but you have forgotten to pay me," was the response. A five-cent piece rung on the counter, the bell sounded, the dial moved and the bartender announced that the public debt of Virginia had been reduced half a cent.

—A thousand feet above Lake Tahoe lies Shakespear Peak, a precipice with a ragged summit, and a narrow sandy six young people set out from the Glenbrook Hotel, on an excursion to the crest of the rocky ledge. They reached the summit in safety, and had a merry time, laughing, singing, flirting. One of the young men challenged Carrie Rice to a game of cards, and very precariously path. Being a girl of high courage, she made the venture, in spite of the remonstrances of the rest of the party. The couple had not gone far before the girl's foot slipped, and as she had hold of her companion's arm, they rolled together down the precipice about fifteen feet. Here the gentlemen struck on a ledge, which formed a rude shelf, but the lady went to the bottom of the abyss—a distance of seventy-five feet. Her companions found her upon a heap of broken stones at the base of the peak, unconscious, dying.

—Dare-devil Skobelev, who blames nobody, but accepts defeat as the "will of God," is the most popular of the Russian heroes. His force was on the extreme left of Schakoffski's division in the first disastrous attack upon Plevna. When his battalion of infantry was under the fire of the twelve guns defending that portion of the Turkish line, the soldiers shouted "Charge!" and began rushing forward. Skobelev ordered a halt; lines were formed with the precision of a dress-parade, and the command was given, "Carry arms!" "Present arms!" When the line was at a "Present," the shells began to fall among them. Skobelev then asked them if they did not think "they presented a ridiculous spectacle in that position under fire." They replied that they did. Then he assured them that he would keep them there until the next day unless they promised to keep order in the ranks and await the command on their own account. Yelling and charging on their own account. The men assured him that they saw the force of his remarks. They were then led forward, and behaved magnificently during the whole action. This incident brings to mind the iron-banded discipline of Catherine's terrible Marshals, who opened their batteries upon their own soldiers when they were wavering in the charge, and drummed the Generals out of camp when they ventured to suggest a retreat.

Readers and Contributors.

Accepted: "Jack Corbin's Adventure;" "A Lesson;" "Our Dead;" "Nell;" "Marian's Situation;" "Woman Against Woman;" "The Man in the Gray Room;" "The Blue Grass Belt;" "Mark Dane's Hate;" "Vashru's Eye;" "Virginius;" "Octavia;" "Revel."

Declined: "Sweet Brown Eyes;" "A Gross Proceeding;" "Mercy's Pledge;" "The Old Squaw's Prophecy;" "Hallelujah;" "The Broken Race;" "One Evening Dim;" "Little or Much;" "Miss Fenwick's Evening at Home."

SHEBOYGAN. The author named never wrote for this paper. We can supply Vol. VIII. of the JOURNAL.

TOUCH ME NOT. We know of no flower of the name. Write to Vick, of Rochester, inclosing stamp for reply.

JIM AND JOE. It is not polite to bow to a lady without lifting the hat. Certainly, a young gentleman may call upon a married lady.

ADDIE SPENCER. Crimson, in all its shades, is the favorite for wall paper. Avoid green. Carpet should have crimson the predominating color.

K. K. K. We cannot say how many firms in New York are engaged in the business named. You can write to Jas. Dooley, 104 Fourth avenue, or Philip Morgenstern, 44½ Maiden Lane, N. Y. city. They both deal in the goods.

JENNIE. Look into back numbers of the SATURDAY JOURNAL for the recipe. You write very well for one who left school so early. But don't write with a pencil. Practice daily writing with a pen, having some good penman to "set" you a good copy.

HERBERT D. S. asks why Jupiter is mentioned in connection with thunder-storms. Jupiter was supposed by the ancients to have control of the kingdom of heaven, and to hurl thunderbolts when angry; he was represented as sitting upon a golden throne holding a scepter of cypress in one hand and thunderbolts in the other.

GEO. F. There really is no such thing as hot soda. It is soda made hot by infusing it with hot water, in its passage from the fountain. The contrivance is simply to heat the soda in a boiler under the fount, by a lamp, and to connect this with the "tap" by a slender pipe—the water being kept constantly at boiling heat.

SUB. Altona. The old dodge, that only a real "greenhorn" could be fooled by. Keep your money and send the "proposition" to the editor of the JOURNAL. Set it down as a rule without exception, that where a party asks for an additional sum of money to secure you a "prize" already awarded to you, it is a fraud.

TOMMY TRAVERS. Mr. Albert W. Aiken is brother of the late George Aiken. George died about two years ago. Both were very reputable actors and theatrical managers, but Mr. Aiken is a different man now confines himself wholly to his profession of author. His best work is being done for this paper. His next story is that already announced—"Gold Dan."

OSCEOLA BLOOD. Children born in the United States are "citizens," under the law, no matter who their parents were. Andrew Jackson's mother was just landed from an emigrant ship in Charleston, when he was born, and he became a citizen, and a citizen, and became President of the United States, although his parents had not been "naturalized" at his birth.

K. M. Milford. No reason whatever why a lady should not canvass at a fair for a book or any article she desires to sell. We cannot procure a lady's situation as a bookkeeper. Your only method is to make personal application to those wanting a book-keeper, cashier, accountant, or other position. Your penmanship is excellent for such positions. The French phrases are the mere names of certain noted places.

DOUBLE-BARREL SPORT. The game laws of New Jersey are very stringent but are not much respected by the Jerseymen, because the enforcement of the laws resting with Jersey justices and constables these officials will not act, unless compelled to. It is there illegal to shoot or to hunt, from January 1st to November 1st—making but five months of the year in which the game can be shot. The penalty for each offense is fifteen dollars.

JOE BEAMS. Lake Tahoe is not the highest lake in the world, by any means. It is about 6,000 feet above sea level, while Lake Titicaca, in Peru, is twice that altitude. Air rarefies as you proceed upward. At the height of 10,000 feet it is visibly thin and breathing then becomes difficult to many persons. Pike's Peak is 14,330 feet high. Denver City is about 6,000 feet above sea-level. See back number of this paper for the altitude of Western peaks.

MRS. E. S. ADAMS. Use the green tomato either for "picnic" or "chowder," or the "Indian" pickle. This latter is especially nice for winter use, and is made as follows: Slice green tomatoes and lay them in a sieve with salt and sugar sprinkled through them, a cupful to each gallon of tomatoes. The next day, slice one-quarter the quantity of onions, and lay in alternate layers with the tomatoes, in a jar, with spices intermixed. Then fill the jar with cold vinegar.

IGNORAMUS. Alexander Hamilton's son Philip was killed by Eacker, in 1801, in a duel at Weehawken, on the very spot where Hamilton fell in the duel with Burr.—Statesman and his son were both so proud, from local considerations, the result of local jealousies.—We do not "indorse" any advertiser, nor are we in any manner responsible for his wares. We do not "indorse" the name of a named. Be your own sole judge as to matter.—The quotation given we cannot now give its author.

SAMUEL ENDICOTT asks: "May a young, unmarried man, with perfect propriety, make gifts to his sisters by marriage, and his own wife, and his wife's family? If a lady refuses to dance a round dance with one gentleman, at an evening entertainment, must she necessarily refuse all? Or may she accept of gifts that are in good taste to your cousins and sisters-in-law.—No; she may refuse to dance with a gentleman of exceptional manners or morals, and yet dance with a person of whom the approval, and she should try to make all refusals as quietly and courteously as possible.

MISS SOPHIA R. L. The day for tinted and elaborately-engraved cards and stationery has passed. The late styles are plain, printed or engraved. Visiting cards are more oblong than square. They come in four graduated sizes. The largest is inscribed with "Mr. A. d. Mrs. B.," the second size simply "Mrs. B.," the third for the unmarried daughter, who employs the prefix "Miss," omitting the Christian name after her first union in society. The smallest is for the guest invited for gentlemen, with the prefix "M. or the name of their club or residence in case corner. They are all in oblong shape.

MAIME L. If the eldest brother is old enough to marry it should be his privilege to seek other young ladies' society than his own. It is right to encourage you to "make much" of the younger brother. Sisters commit a serious mistake in slighting "boy loves." Reciprocate freely the signs of regard. Win his confidence; make such advances as will encourage his reserve to find expression for his fondness for you. Remember, the boy will soon be a man, and therefore is entitled to favor now.—There may be women photographers, but we know of none.—You are not too old to study French. Your age (nineteen) is excellent for study.—If the aunt of the two young ladies will take the same interest in you it will open a very pleasant way for you to do something for yourself. Don't hesitate to express your wishes to your friend.

MAY CRAWFORD. Stuyvesant writes: "I am nineteen and have rather regular features, but they are spoiled by a thick, scaly, oily skin, together with some pimples and carbuncles. Is there anything, either an outward application or a medicine, which will remove these and clear my face? I am not or partly clear? What will brighten dull gray eyes?" Evidently your system is out of order and you need to treat yourself accordingly. If you are as stout as is necessary for your build, eat just a little less will really satisfy your hunger and maintain your strength. Keep yourself to a strict diet of grain food, brown bread, fruit, especially apples, and a sparing use of nicely-cooked, healthy vegetables. Eat broiled meats, not too well done. Avoid the use of pastry, rich puddings, and all kinds of fats, and gravies, and greasy cookery. Drink milk or water as best agrees with you. Once a month use powdered charcoal, a teaspoonful well mixed in water—three nights, then the same dose of magnesia. This cleanses the blood. Every other night for six weeks you might take a small dose of taraxacum, at the same time wear every night a mask of quilted cotton, wet in cold water, upon the face. Take a brisk walk of a mile or two every day, or an hour of active exercise in the open air, as well as exercise in the house. Nothing else will be needed to brighten your eyes. If this course of treatment fails, after two months' patient trial, to improve your complexion, write us again and we will give you directions for still another attempt to improve your looks.

Unanswered questions on hand will appear next week.

"GOOD-BY."

BY MRS. ADDIE D. ROLLISTON.

I spoke it low, with trembling lips
And heart that pulsed with bitter pain,
For well I knew the rosy past
Would never live for me again;
For with that little word, "good-by,"
Died every golden, sunlit dream
That hitherto had made my life
A radiant path of blossoms seem.

I could not chide thee for neglect,
Nor deem thee false, when I knew
No warmer feeling stirred thy heart
Than friendship's passion, calm and true;
And yet a nameless, bitter pain—
A longing vague for something more
Than friendly vows and pledges sweet
When all my skies a shadow were—

Came to me then, and so I spoke,
With bitterness and dreary pain
Remembering that hope's sweet flower
Would never bloom for me again.
"Good-by! good-by!" I said it o'er
And kissed again the suifling face
Upon whose dimpled softness grief
As yet had left no blighting trace.

The dreary days that mock me now;
No bright hopes come with budding spring;
No rosy flowers of summer bloom,
And to my life their fragrance bring.
For over olden joys and dreams
Dark shadows of remembrance lie,
Slue with the bitterness of death.
I spoke the sad, sad word, "good-by."

The Guard Over the Wedding-Ring.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

A DELICIOUS August day was throbbing to its close—a day that had been royal in its exquisite beauty of golden sunshine and fresh western winds, its tropical voluptuousness of warmth that was so perfectly enjoyable.

It had been just such a day as suited the passionate, eager soul of Meta Blanchard, fair, beautiful Meta Blanchard, with her dreamy dark eyes that, lately had reflected no dreams that were blessed or hopeful or happy, for the time had come and gone, when for her, content should crown her as it had crowned her in those by and gone days when Ernest Warwick had been her lord and master. They had been right royal lovers. They suited each other to the finest fibers of their impetuous, passionate, capable natures; they had loved and trusted and looked eagerly forward to a life together which no foreboding of clouds or even the shadows of clouds darkened; Meta had worn the ring he had given her as the seal of their betrothal, placed on her dainty finger between warm, eager kisses—as proudly as a queen wears her coronet—everything had pointed to such perfection of happiness, spiritual, physical, temporal, that even before there came the blackness of darkness between them, Meta often used to wonder, tremblingly, if mortals could endure such sweet joy as was hers, past, present, and future.

But, the blackness of darkness came. Some unlucky business complications plunged Meta's father into irredeemable poverty, and some equally unfortunate freaks of fate disclosed the fact to an inside few that he had been deliberately living a life of cheating and trickery and fraud which, if made widely public, would not only bring him and his family into horrible disgrace and contempt, but consign him to the cell of a prison for perhaps the rest of his natural life.

Then followed dreadful days for the Blanchard family—days when there seemed no choice for him who had worked such desolation but to blow his brains out, and leave his wife and daughter to shift as they could. Days when every conceivable horror stared them in the face; days when the most desperate efforts were being frantically made by Mr. Blanchard's colleagues in rogues to escape from the consequences of their evil-doing.

And then, Mark Penwyn came frankly, boldly, courteously to Meta, and told her what he had to say.

"I am rich, Miss Blanchard—it will not even embarrass me to set your father straight with the bank. I am sufficiently influential to keep the unfortunate matter quiet—I will do both, and your family can go on again in your accustomed luxury of living, provided you will marry me. I admire you more than any woman I ever saw or knew. My name and position and family are irreproachable. Will you trust yourself to me?"

And, although the awful suddenness of it fairly took the girl's breath, the equally sudden way of escape he offered, could not possibly have failed to strongly impress her.

Then came such urgings, such wild, beseeching importunities from her father and mother, and desperate conflicts with her absorbing passion for Ernest Warwick—oh, such terrible days that followed, when, one time she would declare that no combination of circumstances was capable of wrenching her soul from the man she loved; times when she would cry and moan and stumble in the darkness of spiritual danger that engulfed her.

Then, worn out mentally, exhausted physically, until even the power to suffer and resist was gone utterly from her, Meta consented to wreck her own bright young life, sacrifice her own bright young self.

And she wrote to her lover a weary, hopeless note, only telling him it must all be over between them—rather telling him it was already ended between them, because she had promised to be Mark Penwyn's wife, and his diamond slave-ringlet was scintillating on her finger as she wrote her death-warrant.

After that, she never heard a syllable from Mr. Warwick. He did not as much as protest against her letter. He did not as much as give way to anger, or passion, or regret—to her, but she heard afterward—when she had been Mark Penwyn's wife nearly three months, and the wheels of her life outwardly ran in velvet-lined grooves, and her parents were again in the full flush and swing of the prosperity and luxury they loved better than truth or honor—prosperity and luxury for which they had not hesitated to sacrifice their child—it was at this time, a year previous to the time which we choose out of Meta's history to open our recital of her romance, that some one told her that Ernest Warwick had gone abroad with a look in his blue eyes, and an expression on his fair blonde face, and a tenseness about his handsome, haughty mouth, that was not good to see; a look that betokened the havoc, the recklessness, the mad desperation of the soul from whom the cup had been so cruelly, sharply snatched at almost the lifting of its overflowing brim to his eager, waiting, smiling lips.

That had been long ago; Meta Penwyn had graced the magnificent home her husband had brought her to right royally. Her beauty, her hauteur, her cold graciousness, her unfailing courtesy of high breeding, her accomplishments, were enough separately or combined to make her husband proud of her; and he never tired of heaping upon her all the costly elegances and extravagances that he knew, she became so well.

He was a model of gentlemanly considera-

tion and patient, forbearing kindness, and unobtrusive, delicate devotion. He never forgot how he had won her, and in her heart Meta blessed him for his conduct to her, while she never failed an iota in her duty to him, or reminded him by word or look or act that she only endured her life.

I say she reminded him by no word or look or act. I say she was always prompt in her duties, always the courteous lady, the hospitable hostess; but Mark Penwyn read aright the sickening weariness that underlaid it all; he perfectly appreciated the fact that he had married a woman of marble, a woman whose heart was seared and withered, a woman whose inner life was a pitiful hopelessness.

So many women could have loved him. He was not much older than Meta—he was yet among the thirties. He was a gentleman of fine culture, and sweet disposition, except for a certain pride that sometimes made him seem a little hard. He never had been a demonstrative man, but he had a great, loving soul, and, above all, a tender, unobtrusive, delicate devotion that sometimes, despite herself, touched Meta.

And he loved her. That comprised it all. That tells all the story. While she—sitting out under the wide-spreading shade of a huge linden tree, that stood on the very brow of a hill that delicious August evening, was wondering how much longer the heart-sick yearning for what she had deliberately put away from her would consume her.

It might have been because of the appealing beauty of the day, with its gorgeous sunset, and the soft murmuring of the wind as it freshened with foretaste of slumberous autumn days coming; it might have been the unconscious influence upon her of that which was to follow so shortly; but, whatever the cause, Meta was experiencing a heart-sick, unendurable yearning for a sight of Ernest Warwick's face, a sound of his voice, a touch of his hand.

"My love! My lost love! My murdered love!"

Her fair white hands went up to her face to cover its pale pain, to hide the passionate eagerness in her eyes that were starving for the sight of a face that was not her husband's. Then, with great dumb cries in her heart that corresponded with the mute anguish on her lovely mouth, she slowly took up her book she had brought to read, "Mildred" it was, poor, suffering Mildred, whom Meta thought was so like herself in her capacity for loving and agonizing—and returned to the house to meet Mr. Penwyn on the lawn, calm, courteous, unobtrusive as ever, but with a fire of idolatrous admiration and love glowing under that quiet exterior.

"I should have walked down to your favorite haunt for you, Meta, if you had not come as you did. Is it not a perfect summer-day? And how charmingly cool it will be for your guests to-night."

Her guests! She had positively forgotten there was to be company, and gayety, and music, and dancing that night, and she would have to dress, and move among them, and smile, and speak pleasant words as usual.

The prospect almost appalled her for a moment. Then, the same customary apathy came to her aid.

"I had quite forgotten it was Thursday. Yes, it promises a pleasant evening."

She made a move to enter the house; Mr. Penwyn did not offer to detain her, but there came that hurt, pained look in his kindly eyes that was often there nowadays.

"You will find a letter awaiting you in your room. Edson said there was one in the mail, and he sent it up. You look tired, dear."

She smiled faintly.

"I think I am. I believe I will rest the half-hour before dinner if you will excuse me."

Of course he excused her, and she went upstairs to her room, slowly, wearily, to suddenly galvanize into wild-eyed excitement and almost uncontrollable eagerness when she caught sight of a letter lying on her toilet-table, addressed to her in Ernest Warwick's handwriting—a letter her trembling hands could scarcely open, so did it shake her to her very soul's center.

It was brief, terse, but Ernest Warwick all over. It was dated from the hotel a half-mile from Penwyn Place, and the date was four hours' old, and the contents were, word for word:

"Somebody says you receive your friends to-night. I am coming. For God's sake, don't refuse to see me."

That was all. No address, no superscription. That was all—wild, passionate, masterful, yet pleading.

It ought to have warned this wife of Mark Penwyn, from its very passionate masterfulness, by the throbbing thrills of mad ecstasy that made the blood surge in her veins through her veins, she should have been warned that a chasm was yawning at her very feet, that there was imminent danger ahead.

But the past months had been too terribly desolate—the future was too utterly hopeless—the present afforded too rapturous ecstasy for this woman to resist the temptation to see him once more, to touch the only hands that ever thrilled her; and, besides, how could she prevent his coming?

Already there sprang up specious reasoning and ready argument. How, she asked herself, was she to prevent his coming, unless she sent a servant, armed with authority, forbidding him the house?

Of course he must come—as any other guest, but by the shining light in her eyes, by the pink flushes on her face, by the look that quivered on her sweet mouth, you would have known Ernest Warwick would not come as any other guest.

She dressed herself exquisitely that night, and marveled herself at the glorious creation she was, with her dark eyes shining, her splendid face all irradiated with an excitement of hope and joy that had been so long, so pitifully a stranger; with her lustrous hair arranged in a graceful coiffure that suited so well her classic head; with her white lace dress, where pearls gleamed more whitely still and whose purity was not marred by a hint of daintiest color or glow of gold.

In her shiny dark hair was a delicate white drooping flower, with no leaf to break its waxen fairness, and at her belt a similar spray.

Her husband had looked at her in silent, worshipping wonderment. He had never seen her so wondrously fair, so enchantingly radiant; but he did not know the wherefore and the why.

Early in the evening there was quiet entertainment. Later, the music flashed out in inspiring dance-music, and everything was in the full swing of enjoyment and perfect success when Mr. Warwick came and found her where, of all places, it were best he had not found her—alone in the dusk and fragrance of the immense conservatory, where fountains played and flashed, and flowers bloomed in sweet, sensual fragrance.

Meta had not arranged it so. She had gone thither for a moment's rest, and the first she

knew that he had come was his voice in her ears, his arms around her.

"Meta! Meta! Meta!"

It was so exultant, so jubilant, it was so sudden, his caress, that she had hardly time to turn and free herself—instinct with woman's impulse of sacredness.

"Mr. Warwick! You—"

She could not say another word. The sight of him so filled her with mad ecstasy, with sudden strange realization of the fact as she never had realized it before—that she, the wife of one man, had left all her heart in the keeping of another, with almost fear at the power she felt at his presence, his influence—all these thoughts and sensations thronged over her, depriving her of speech, almost of action, as he stood there, smiling in her face—smiling, yet desperately, almost hopelessly.

"Oh, Meta! My darling! Yes, you are my very own, as much as ever you was—I don't care for whose name you bear, for who pretends to own you! My Meta—you are not going to send me away empty, hungry? For all these months I have only endured life without you—despair has made me what you may call reckless, what I call determinate, resolved—for I am come, my love, my love, to plead my cause with you, and pray you to go with me, to happiness and forgetfulness of the past dark days—to happiness with me, dear, happiness with you and I together."

They were the same caressing, masterful tones that in other days had made her thrill with delight and pride and worshipping love. The same beloved voice, tempting her, and she in all the panoply of weakness, she, shorn of her strength by all those days of longing and weariness unutterable.

The fountain plashed softly. The crystal drops played high in the fragrant, dusky air, and rippled, a trickling cascade, over shining shells, and trailing vines, and laughing-eyed star-flowers, into the still, dark basin below, where water-lilies with folded waxen petals slumbered on broad green leaves like a baby on its mother's breast.

Lights mellowly burned in their globes. Faint, low music came from the dancing saloon, a ravishing, sensuous waltz that swayed her soul as it inspired twinkling feet. Every accessory appealed to this woman's lover nature; and beside her, looking down on her bowed head, eagerly reading every expression of her mobile countenance, Ernest Warwick stood, his eyes burning, his handsome mouth smiling, his heart thrilling for love of her.

And Meta? Mark Penwyn's wife? The beautiful woman her husband loved to idolatry, whom he trusted and honored to the utmost?

She stood still, leaning her cold trembling hands against the bronze rim of the fountain, listening to the sweet, sweet tones; thinking, in a mad, wild joy, what bliss he offered her, what bliss, in a vague way, if it was she, she, who heard such words, who had such speech spoken to her—asking herself if this, this were the end of it all, that she should be called upon to choose between dreary, honorable enduring, or—

A little indignant cry, the outburst of womanly purity and principle, came passionately from her lips.

"You must not speak so to me! It is terrible—terrible! It is—"

He grasped her hands forcibly in his, and compelled her glance by the power of his own.

"Terrible—that I love you, when once you saw that—all of heaven was centered in my love for you, yours for me! Terrible, my darling, that I want you for my own, that I come to release you from a bondage cruel as death in life! Terrible, Meta?"

He was so quietly exultant in, and so gracefully confident of, himself—and her!

It frightened her.

"I must go—I must! I am afraid some one may come—"

He would have put his arms around her—only, she suddenly shrank away, this woman who, an hour ago, had been in a fever of excitement and wild exuberance of passion at the prospect ahead of seeing him. He would have snatched her in his eager arms, and kissed her in riotous imploration, only, that, seeing what he felt, what he meant, Mark Penwyn's name came almost involuntarily to her lips—Mark Penwyn, who, after all, was her friend and protector, and—husband; who, after all, was greater, grander, nobler than this handsome, pleading lover at her side.

And as Meta called his name—her husband's name—alarmedly, helplessly, Ernest Warwick knew, as by a revealing light from heaven, what it all meant. How, stronger, better, braver than he, although woman, Meta had stood true to herself and had saved him from that which in cooler moments he would have repented in sackcloth and ashes.

He was not a thoroughly bad man. There was nobility and conscience in him, and it uprose at the piteous, startling cry in Meta's voice.

"Hush," he said, hoarsely, "don't call upon him to protect you from me! My God—what must you think of me?"

"I can forgive it all—only go—go—go! Go right away—"

And Ernest Warwick instantly obeyed her—who, in her strength born of weakness, had been victor over two human souls!

A year later, when life was flowing on very peacefully in Meta Penwyn's home, and her first babe lay on her breast, her husband came to her, one sweet, peaceful autumn afternoon, with a tiny casket in his hand that he opened as he sat down beside her couch.

"Meta, my wife, one evening last summer when you and Mr. Warwick were together in the conservatory, I overheard the entire conversation, and was a witness to your fidelity and womanliness. My darling—you did not know then I knew it all; you never knew I dated the commencement of our content from that hour—that from then, out of the solemn knowledge of that time, out of the peril of that time, out of its grand triumph, there grew God's blessing in turning your heart more and more to me. And, Meta, to-day this has come to me, for you—this exquisite pearl ring, with a long letter from Ernest Warwick, written on his dying bed, asking me if you may wear it as a guard over your wedding-ring, as a gift from him in commemoration of the time when you saved him from such terrible temptation. Meta, with the letter is the announcement of his death. Dear, will you wear it, as a gift from the grave, and yet a symbol of your happiness and mine?"

And reverently enough Mark Penwyn placed the delicate gem on the fair finger; and while Meta's sweet eyes filled with tears, her lips smiled as she lifted them toward her husband's to kiss.

"God has been so good to me—so much better than I deserve! And, Mark, I am not worthy of you!"

He kissed her, and laid the pearl-guarded wedding-ring finger on their baby's soft white cheek.

"My wife!" he said.

PRESENTIMENT.

BY HENRI MONTCAIM.

Ah! many a weary day
My love was far away;
And always, when night came,
(Oh, lovers' hearts are light!)
I used to breathe his name,
And whisper soft, "Good-night."

Yet once—I know not why—
There came a night when I—
I could not speak his name;
But only wept instead:
And when the morning came,
I heard that he was dead.

The Bitter Secret;

OR,

THE HEART OF GOLD.

BY GRACE MORTIMER.

CHAPTER XVII.

A FIEND AT THE COUCH.

THE twenty-four hours which we have described indicate the history of forty-eight months; during which the hapless Monica was abandoned in the unknown wilderness.

Her sufferings, mental and physical, are beyond narration; they would only harrow the reader's heart for naught; suffice it to say that three days after her recovery from unconsciousness, she lay at dusk on the bare floor in that corner of the room which was furthest from the bed. She had never laid upon it since that night she had discovered the diabolical mystery connected with it. She had passed through all the various stages of slow starvation, the giddiness, the raving hunger, the sick torment, the unendurable gnawings of her vitals, the gradual consuming of all strength, and one by one of all her faculties; and now she lay in a stupor, her sharpened face turned up and her blackened, parched, and excoriated lips open, and gasping for breath, while her hollow eyes glared through the glazing of coming dissolution, sightless and senseless.

The watch-dog had been visited twice in that time, and fed, and Monica had called and entreated the Italian, receiving no reply, not even the turning of his eyes in her direction. She had long known that it was intended that she should never emerge alive from her lonely prison, and argued from this, (as long as she had sense to reason, poor soul, or to think of anything outside of her own cruel pangs,) that her father's life was by this time taken, and that his murderers dared not now set her free, since she suspected their guilt.

Be sure she had not tamely succumbed to her premature fate; rich in personal courage, as well as possessing great natural ingenuity and resource, with boundless patience and industry, she had tried every device which the cleverest captive could imagine to escape from her captivity, but her enemies had foreseen everything, and had prepared for everything that was in her power to do, so that in whichever direction she bent her efforts, she found them frustrated.

The framework of the windows being slight, and worn out, she had been able to drive out one of the sashes, and she could have easily lowered herself to the grass beneath by the aid of the bedclothes, had not the horrible apparition of the blood-hound, crouching beneath, been ever before her, its blood-shot eyes watching her, its red jaws dripping in expectation, and its continual hoarse baying chilling her blood; in vain had she endeavored to propitiate the brute by kind words and coaxing gestures; famine had made him savage, and some diabolical art of the Italian had imprinted on his canine brain the indelible conviction that the captive was his worst enemy.

Then she had tried to stun him with the only heavy articles in the room, namely the grate-irons and andirons that stood in the empty fireplace; these the animal had dodged one after the other, successfully, in spite of the unhappy girl's hours of anxious watching for an opportunity, and breathless dexterity in seizing it when it came; and, seemingly quite aware of what she had tried to do, a spirit of vengeance tenfold more malignant than the first had taken possession of the dog, and he was content to crouch by the hour motionless under the shelter of the wall, his red orbs, which glittered with a metallic glare, fastened in horrible fixity upon her.

Rotten as the door was, the lock was new and sound, and no force that she could use, minus iron tools, availed to break it open; the chimney was too narrow to permit of her exit through it, even could she have climbed it as a man would have done; and lastly, the walls defied her soft hands to beat them down, and the floor resisted her every effort to tear up a plank or loosen a nail. Had she had any means of lighting a fire, she would have burned her way out, but her jailers had been far too cunning to leave her so much as one match, knife, spoon, or article possible to be converted into a tool which would serve her purpose.

And now all was over; her life was ebbing fast away, the chill of death was on her; she suffered no more pain or fear, for she was mercifully wrapped in the stupor that comes before death from inanition. But on this, the evening of the third day came an event.

She never heard the stealthy fall of horse's hoofs approaching over the heath, nor the savage yell of delight uttered by the famished hound as he heard and recognized the coming of his feeder; not a thrill of joy or fear passed through her death-struck frame, though (the dog having been thrown his meal of raw flesh, as his howl of rapture and then wild-beast growlings and snarlings attested,) the cottage door was unlocked at last, and stealthy feet mounted the creaking narrow stairs, stopping often for a minute at a time; came nearer—nearer—paused outside her door, and in the dim little passage an ear was placed to the keyhole; but still poor Monica took no heed, for she was dying.

It was Vulpino, who, having satisfied himself that his victim either could not or would not give any sign, boldly unlocked and entered her prison. He saw her at once, and glanced from the still figure on the floor to the unoccupied bed in surprise, asking himself why she had chosen between them thus; then perceiving that she had brushed away the sand from the slightly raised edges of the square upon which the bedstead stood, he shrugged his shoulders in grim comprehension, smiling darkly, and his wicked eyes twinkling, as if in anticipation of some interesting episode; and then he stalked over to her, knelt, and saw that she breathed yet.

At first he merely made a goblin-like grimace of disapprobation, muttering in his own language:

"Bah! you might have spared me this disagreeable duty, Piccolina. My word! but you must have as many lives as a cat, not to have succumbed yet. Ebbene! to work, Giacomo Vulpino; and now for a pretty bit of surgery."

The low muttering tone in which he spoke

seemed scarcely enough to rouse the lightest slumberer; but perhaps it sounded in the long silent room with unnatural loudness, or perhaps her ebbing life made one more desperate effort to save itself, inspired by the human voice; at all events, Monica's dim eyes opened suddenly, and she lifted them slowly and painfully up to his, and gazed.

The Italian had taken from his pocket a case of medical instruments, and was in the act of selecting a tiny crystal tube, fine as a drawing-needle, but seeing her eyes he stayed his hands and returned her look, an expression of intense wonder gradually overspreading his harsh and sinister features.

Monica had one incomparable beauty, her eyes.

Lit by health, happiness and love, they had haunted the dreams of many a beauty-lover; and even now, though they were sunken, dimmed, and encircled with inky circles, they shot their spell straight to the heart of the Italian, who was like all his nation a born devotee at Beauty's shrine, so that for the moment he forgot everything else in the rare pleasure of drinking in the loveliness thus unexpectedly revealed.

This retarded Monica's fate for full five minutes.

The paid assassin did not say a word or attempt to make her speak, he simply looked his fill, narrowly, critically, and with a series of strange snarls of perfect approval, as if he was gazing at a notable picture in a gallery; but at last he drew a long breath and muttered in his own tongue, which Monica had studied enough to gather the meaning of:

"By Santa Maria, 'tis a pity to extinguish such fires, and carry their charming memory forever, associated only with ugly death. But I see—I see! I get a peep of your game, Fratelli Marshall! the signorina is the Derwent, whether she knows it or not! By the exquisite eyes here reproduced to perfection of Dama Ethelgiva Derwent, whose venerable portrait hangs in the picture-gallery of the Weald, this unknown Monica Rivers from across the Atlantic is a true Derwent, whose life stands between these hungry money-hunters and their prize, and therefore it is that she must die. Ah well! 'tis no concern of mine; they pay me well, and I love to be paid well; so you must go, pretty lady, and lie till the day of doom in the mysterious vault to which yonder couch will softly bear you."

Once more turning to his instruments he lifted her arm delicately, between one bony finger and thumb, and traced upon its cold and shrunken surface one big blue vein, with the blunt end of the minute glass syringe, and when he had selected the spot he was looking for, he took from the case a little vial containing a white fluid, and unscrewing the top of the syringe, adroitly charged it with a drop or two and screwed it on again.

But Monica had been gradually regaining her consciousness as he knelt there, and not only had heard and translated all he said, but was now slowly and feebly fitting meaning to his words; slowly comprehending the accompanying actions.

As he lifted her arm once more, having previously mounted on his high sharp nose a pair of heavy gold-rimmed spectacles, she made a supreme effort to move her blue lips to speak.

He perceived the attempt, and, curiosity overcoming the professional unconcern with which he had been about to win his money, he relinquished her arm, laid down the deadly little weapon carefully, on the bare floor at his side, and deliberately producing a flask of spirits, wet her mouth with a few drops, and chafed her temples with his great clammy palms, until she felt a thrill of life pass through her veins.

Again she moved her poor pale lips, which had almost forgotten how to do anything but gasp and quiver in pain, but she was far too weak to utter a sound as yet, and could only look up piteously at the man whom she fully recognized as her appointed murderer.

With what unnatural apathy she told herself this! But she had already suffered pangs worse than any death—nothing could affright one so miserable.

The Italian patiently went on restoring her; he had long been so inured to the extremity of crime, and with impunity—that his conscience was stone dead—(he never had had much)—his heart—(always a small one)—obtruded on his chosen course; it was not remorse, and it was not pity, which now stayed his hand from taking away this sweet young life for a paltry thousand pounds; it was simply that he would like to hear her version of the Derwent-Marshall affair, which, for all he knew, held far richer awards in its secrets than he had been promised.

At last she could speak, though she was so sadly reduced that the effort to articulate a few syllables seemed like the squeezing out of the last drops of her heart's blood, and sent the last arid tear of exhaustion rolling scantily down her skeleton cheek.

"I—know—you—" she panted, so faintly and huskily that Vulpino had to bend his disgusting great ear close to her mouth before he could distinguish the words; "I—heard—they—Vulpino—Mr. Derwent—poison—oh! Tell—is he dead?" The last three words she cried out together in a sudden throes of agonized suspense, while her shaking hands strove to clasp themselves and rise toward him in supplication; but the Italian never heeded the appeal, he was too intent on his own plans.

"Ma pretta mees," said he, in his broken English, calling up a would-be benevolent smile to his hideous visage, "wat you want of the reesh man Derwent-a?"

"Is—he—dead?" reiterated Monica, piteously.

"Dat I tell ven you tell me de o-der-a, pretty mees!" said he, nodding his head grotesquely, and picking up the tiny tube for a playing, to twist in his long, dirty-nailed claws. "Wat you—eh! queek, tell-a."

Monica saw that it was only wicked curiosity that had restored her, and turned her poor face away in bitter disappointment.

"Know you dat I hold de leetle life in my hands?" grined he, lightly tracing the selected vein on her bare arm with the sharp point of the syringe. "Now you answer-a me, pronto—pronto—or I—ah! and de leetle Riviera he dead, essa stessa; o—hel an den I weep-a!" and he made a playful little prod at her arm with the point of the syringe, and pretended to wipe his eyes.

Monica had resigned herself to die some twelve hours since, and had not hoped for deliverance since, but she now felt a sudden enraged reluctance to meet death at these vile hands.

She found strength enough yet to drag herself to her knees, and to plead for her young life in a burst of agonizing prayer.

"Oh, save me!" she moaned. "What have I done to you—to any one, that I should be murdered?"

"You see these delicate leetle machina?" he retorted, putting it close to her eyes and sinking his voice to hoarse menace, while his fiendish glare rested upon her derisively; "see these

"Go, if you wish, child; I do feel more quiet than I have in days. Doubtless rest is what I most need."

She went out to find all the ladies of the house gathered in Bertha's room, in a high state of excitement over the arrival of that married lady.

POETIC OBESITY.

BY JOE JOY, JR.

I am a growing evil, sure,
There's no doubting that;
It is the flat of my fate—
I'm fated to be fat.

I'll never marry in the world,
Since 'tis the worst of woes;
I've just been stung by Addie Poe
For reasons adipose.

I sighed for Miss McFerrison,
She had such raven eyes;
But she did not *infatuate*,
And so disdained my sighs.

Miss Minks discarded me, too, soon,
And spurned my offerings;
Although beside me she averred
All other men were small.

Miss Jamb was twenty, and a blonde;
To marry she said "Nay!"
She never would be bossed, besides,
I'd have too much my weight.

Miss Million refused my love
When her dear smile I sought;
The reason that she gave was that
Beside me she'd be naught.

Another intimated strong
That my devoirs must stop,
For though I was humbleman
I was too much puffed up.

I asked if I could occupy
A place within her mind;
She said the necessary space
Would be too hard to find.

Another turned her head away
When I began to woo;
She said, "You don't amount to much
Though there is much of you."

Another very strongly thought
That I might recreate prove,
Because she said I was too great
For any one to love.

And then I tried a host of things
To make myself grow small,
By which my purse was much reduced—
My person not at all.

And still the worst thing of it all
That causes me to frown,
Is, while the fattest, yet I am
The poorest man in town.

The Flyaway Afloat:

OR,
YANKEE BOYS 'ROUND THE WORLD.
BY C. D. CLARK,
AUTHOR OF "YANKEE BOYS IN CEYLON,"
"CAMP AND CANOE," "ROD AND RIFLE,"
"THE SEAL-HUNTERS," ETC.

CHASE OF THE URANG—A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

"Now, gentlemen," said the Rajah, "I don't reckon you'll be long out of business, so let's meander on into the woods and see what we can see. We'll raise the urang as soon as possible, and then I'm off with you. But don't say so to my men, or there would be bloodshed. The darn fools like me, somehow."

Already the Bomi were engaged in burying the dead, but the small band of choice hunters selected by the Rajah took the advance, and led them at a rapid pace through the forest. And such a forest as it was! The growth was simply wonderful, for in this island are found some of the most remarkable trees to be seen upon the face of the earth. The baobab, the liquidamber and other remarkable forest trees reared their stately heads in air, and the broad leaves of the talipot swayed to and fro before their eyes.

"It's a great kentry, gentlemen," declared Saul—"a mighty kentry, and if you was to put it into the hands of native-born Yankees, twenty years hence you'd see something that would make your eyes stick out. But here; this ain't urang hunting."

He turned to one of the natives and cried out something in the language of the Bomi. The man nodded gravely and at once issued his orders to the natives. Twenty or thirty men disappeared in the woods and scattered in every direction. For a time not a word was spoken, and the party awaited in perfect silence, looking in the direction from which the sounds which came to them told that the beaters were closing in, and driving everything before them. "There goes an old man," cried Will. "Call him in, some one; he might get hurt."

Saul gave utterance to a delighted shout.

"Old man, says you? That's the old man we are arter; that's the urang!"

Two or three hundred yards away, crossing an opening, was a bent and decrepit figure that of an ugly native past the middle age; at least, so it seemed to the boys. But, Saul knew otherwise, for the creature they saw was the one known in America as the orang-utan, the animal which, before the gorilla, has most human characteristics. He was running across an open space, uttering loud and piercing cries, evidently as a signal.

The signal was quickly answered, and four more such figures appeared, another male, a female, and two small urangs, scarcely larger than an infant, who ran through the long grass rapidly, and dived into the thickest of the woods.

"Hurrah!" shouted Will. "After them, boys, but take one of the little fellows alive if you can; I want him."

"Take care!" warned the Rajah. "Once get a urang in a corner and he'll fight like a pisen cuss."

The boys never heard him, but at once stretched away in pursuit, bobbing under the swinging boughs, with their guns ready for a shot. The small game which abounded settled upon their approach without an attempt on the part of any of them to fire or strike. The urang was their game, and nothing else now could tempt them.

Ned was the first of all who had luck. Being a rapid runner he was soon in advance of the rest, passing rapidly through the opening between the great trees. He had got his eyes upon the smaller male of the two they had seen, and by rapid running separated him from his companions. Strange to say, the creature did not take to trees; he seemed to know there was no safety for him there, and that, if he could not elude his pursuer, he was doomed. As he scuttled through the opening, his long arms swinging and his body half-stooping he presented a strange appearance. The creature was heading for a heavy growth of underbrush, into which, if he once plunged, it would be next to impossible to follow him, and Ned, slackening his pace, prepared his rifle for a shot, when there started up before the creature a couple of half-naked Bomi, who waved their arms in the air and shouted. With a half-human cry the urang wheeled and came flying back, flourishing his long arms in the air, and evidently driven to desperation.

Ned drew up his rifle and pulled. Under ordinary circumstances he could have been sure of his aim, but as he had to admit, "it was too much like shooting at a man," so his hand trembled. He did not miss, it is true, but the bullet, instead of passing through the head, as he intended, passed through the huge ear of the wild creature.

The wound seemed to drive the game half-mad, and flourishing his arms like a windmill, he drove straight at Ned. But the Bomi rushed in with their spears, fearing for the safety of the boy.

Ned was not at all frightened at the furious appearance of the now ferocious creature; so clubbing his rifle, he delivered a sudden and heavy jabbing blow, which drove the urang several paces backward. Before it could recover Ned had his revolver in his hand, and when it again charged, the weapon cracked twice in rapid succession. At the second discharge the urang leaped into the air, and fell dead in its tracks, shot through the brain. As

Ned advanced to look at the fallen foe he heard a smothered cry for help through the woods to the right, and grasping his revolver tightly, sprang away in the direction of the sound.

Will, from the very first, had kept his eyes upon one of the young urangs. The boy was full of a naturalist's enthusiasm, and had promised a friend that he would bring him something of this kind, if possible, for his museum. If he could take it alive he counted upon rare sport in its training.

He was next to Ned in the chase, and when the game separated, he had taken up the chase of the bevy which had the young urang in charge. But they had plunged into the woods, and quickly mounted a great tree, where they lay concealed in the branches, while the sound of pursuit swept by on every side.

Will waited, for he had a great fancy for hunting alone, and even his adventure with the elephant, when he took refuge in the hollow tree, had not cured him of the propensity. So he stood under the tree, and allowed the rest to pass him, giving no sign to indicate that he had any knowledge of the hiding-place of the urangs.

It was a rather selfish act, and as selfishness is apt to do, it brought its reward in a shape which was far from pleasant to the boy.

"Oh, yes," he muttered, as he balanced his Winchester, "here's the tool that will fix you, my boys; you've got to come out of that, you know."

He began to walk about the large tree, with his eyes fixed upon the leafy canopy.

The apes had hidden themselves securely, and in spite of his keen eyes he could not see them.

"Oh, hang the luck," he thought. "Come out and show yourselves, and be somebody, you fools!"

Probably if the devilry which belongs naturally to the ape families, had not showed itself, the boy might have been disappointed in his object; but unfortunately the tree bore a species of nut, peculiar to these islands, covered with spike-like projections, and as large as a coconut.

Seeing the boy underneath, one of the urangs could not resist the temptation to drop one of the nuts upon his head!

It had no sooner occurred to the urang than the thought was executed, and the great nut came down, true as a die, and alighted fairly upon the head of the unfortunate Will.

Only one thing, the stiff-crowned hat which he wore, saved him from serious injury, for the spines were broken in passing through the cap; but, even as it was, he came to the earth with a bump, while a loud chattering from above told that the urangs were exulting over the success of the "drop."

They now began to rain the nuts down so rapidly that Will crept out of the way, but not soon enough to prevent one of the nuts from scoring his right leg, cutting three deep gashes as neatly as if it had been done with a knife.

To say that he was angry would be putting it mildly. He was furious beyond measure, and grasping his rifle again, he got up slowly, with his eye fixed upon the tree, and put the rifle to his shoulder.

At the same moment one of the urangs, holding one of the nuts by a spike, looked out from among the branches, and stepped nearer, to tempt him, and the creature crawled out further on the branch, holding the "baby" on one arm, and balancing the nut for a toss.

At this moment Will discharged his rifle, taking a more careful aim than he had ever taken in his life.

The urang dropped the nut and made a wild clutch at the branches above his head, and then came plunging down, turning once in the air and falling flat upon his back, with the little creature still close to his chest. Will ran up and caught up the young urang, the prize for which he had suffered so much, and at the price of a sharp scratch or two succeeded in binding it closely, hand and foot.

The little fiend fought fiercely, and uttered piercing cries.

Will paid no attention to this, but completed his work, and was about to rise, when, with the savage yell peculiar to the ape, the mother alighted upon his back. Will whirled quickly and fastened his right hand upon her throat, and a desperate struggle began.

In the course of his wanderings it had been the fortune of Will Wade to meet with many wild adventures, but never, perhaps, in all that time, had he met a fiercer foe than this, mother fighting in defense of her young.

In his first alarm he uttered a cry for help, although he did not look for any. The hunters had all passed, long ago, and were no doubt far away in the forest, beating it for the lost game. He must depend upon himself, and even if he conquered, it must be at some cost.

The sharp claws were working furiously, and the creature showed wonderful strength. If he could have reached his knife, a single thrust would have ended it, but he had dropped it while engaged in tying the young urang, and it was now out of his reach. Again and again the sharp claws tore through his flesh, and he almost began to despair, for the urang was tearing furiously at the hand fastened on her throat, clashing her white teeth together savagely, and uttering the most savage yells. Suddenly the right paw shot down to the earth, and when she raised it she held in her clutch the heavy bowie which Will had dropped!

Of course the creature did not understand the use of the knife, but meant to use it as a club. Holding it as she did, with the edge down, a single blow from the heavy weapon would split his skull like an egg-shell. Will darted up his left hand and caught her by the wrist, but, in doing so, was forced to release his hold upon her throat. Instantly the long teeth were fastened in the flesh of the forearm which clasped her wrist, and in his agony the boy released her and the knife was again raised on high.

At this moment, when there seemed no hope for him, a rush of feet was heard, a revolver cracked so close to him that the powder burnt his tattered sleeve. The jaws of the urang relaxed their grips, the knife dropped from her feeble clutch, and she rolled over on the earth in the agonies of death. It was Ned, who, coming to the aid of his brother, had placed his pistol to the ear of his assailant, and shot her through the head.

The rest of the party, hearing the shots, came rushing back, only to find the urang dead, and Ned Wade supporting the bleeding form of Will upon his knee, and endeavoring to stanch the flowing blood. It was many a day before the boy was himself again and he had learned a lesson which he would never forget.

Tales Worth Telling.

BY LAUNCE POYNTE.

III.
SERGEANT LEAHY THE SWIMMER.

THERE are many deeds of heroism that the newspapers never tell of, and many are feats of strength and endurance performed by quiet, unknown people that will rival those of professional athletes. The subject of our story is an excellent illustration of the perfection to which bodily exercise can be brought, if a man of intelligence bends his will to becoming first in a specialty.

Thomas Leahy was born in Scotland of Irish parents, about sixty years ago, and still lives in England, as swimming-master to the great public school of Eton, where the young dukes and earls are brought up. Since he was made master, a wonderful change has taken place in the swimming at Eton, so much so that it is said that his pupils can be recognized in any part of the world, by their peculiar grace, ease and rapidity of swimming, as Etonians of Leahy's school. Some of his secrets, and a few of his wonderful exploits are worth telling and hearing.

Like all born athletes, young Leahy, from his

earliest years, was devotedly fond of gymnastics, and adverse to other study. Just like all the rest, too, he regrets his want of early education now that it is too late to repair it. As long as the heyday of youth and strength lasts the life of an athlete is pleasant enough; but when such an one gets past his prime, and sees the companion he used to despise as weaklings grown up, prosperous and rich, while he no longer attracts crowds, he is apt to think he has mis-spent his time. In the case of Leahy, however, this is not so, for having been a good, sober, honest fellow all his life, old age is coming on him slowly, amid the respect of his employers, while the Eton boys all adore him.

Young Tom was sent to school early, but he would not learn anything more than reading, writing and a little ciphering, while he was always winning whenever he got a chance, and was devotedly fond of soldiers, too. At last, when he was about eighteen years old, he left his home suddenly, and enlisted in the 93d Highland Regiment, just as it was leaving England for India. Once in the Highlanders, Leahy seemed to be fully content, and remained in the same regiment for thirty years, never having a bad conduct mark all the time he was there. It was while there, however, that he found cause to be sorry for having neglected his studies. He was a remarkably brave man in battle, and twice he had won such gallantry that he was offered a commission. He was unable to accept it, because he could not pass the examination for officers, and he was obliged to be content with remaining a sergeant all his days.

However, we are not here concerned so much about his bravery as his swimming powers, which were truly extraordinary. When Leahy entered the army he was already a good swimmer, but he soon became a better one. His regiment was first posted at Gibraltar, and while there his favorite amusement was to swim races with the rest of the garrison, when they were off duty.

He very soon was able to beat any one in his regiment, and the officers were so proud of him that they matched him against a famous swimmer of the Rifle Brigade, to swim half a mile out to sea.

Leahy won this match, which was for about twenty-five dollars a side, with such ease that no one else in the garrison dared answer his challenge to swim "any man, black, white or brown, a two-mile race for a hundred pounds."

Soon after he had thus become the champion swimmer at Gibraltar the regiment was ordered to Aden, on the coast of Arabia, by the Red Sea, where it remained in garrison for nearly three years.

Here young Leahy, who was now a corporal, was not only a swimmer, but a diver, and his time, and the beautiful sandy beach invited him to swim constantly, while the peculiar clearness of the water and the coral formations at the bottom tempted him to perfect himself in the art of diving, in which he soon became an expert. He had been before he was a swimmer, as a swimmer began to spread, and as none of the garrison dare challenge him, they hunted through the country until they found an Arab fisherman, who was said to be able to stay in the water a whole day, and backed him against Leahy for fifty pounds, to swim a two-mile race.

Leahy had heard a good deal of the wonderful powers of savages and wild men generally in the water, and of course felt a little uncomfortable, as they might have some peculiar style of swimming, but he knew nothing, as he swam in the ordinary European manner.

However, his officers backed him against Osman the Arab, and one day at noon the two men went down to the beach before a large crowd of people, and struck out for a buoy. It was not long before Leahy was well ahead, and the swimmers might get sunstroke.

Some one recommended Leahy to duck his head often and keep it wet, but he declined the advice, and did not even plunge in headforemost.

He mentions one curious fact about this ducking of heads, so often recommended in hot weather to avoid sunstroke. It is that so long as he kept his head dry in swimming he never had a headache, but if he wet his head he always had more or less headache, and he never lets them out of his mind, remembering and agrees with the writer's experience, though, of course, constitutions differ.

Well, Leahy and Osman swam straight out to sea, and before they had gone a quarter of a mile the Highlander was far ahead of the Arab. He swam in a very different style, very flat and shallow, near the top of the water, with long strokes, making long pauses between the strokes. The Arab swam very deep in the water, nearly perpendicular in fact, with short strokes and pauses. He appeared to labor a little, but his progress was slow. The spectators watched the two heads growing more and more distant, till they were almost out of sight, but they could see the two rowboats that accompanied the swimmers getting further apart every minute, till the furthest had rounded the buoy and was heading back home, nearly a quarter of a mile ahead. All through the race Leahy continued to gain, and finally reached the beach pretty well tired, thirteen minutes in advance of the Arab.

The time Osman came in, the Highlander was well rested, had taken a glass of beer, and kept the water from getting into his eyes, and announced himself ready to begin again. This was in answer to Osman's backers, who trusted much to the endurance of their man, and wanted to make a ten-mile match at once.

At last Osman came out of the water, looking as quiet as when he entered it, and apparently quite fresh. It was soon found out, however, that he had enough of it for that day. The wonderful rapidity of Leahy's swimming convinced Osman that he never could beat the Highlander in the longest race. All he could do was to stay in the water for hours.

This race established Leahy as champion of the Red Sea; and therefore, it was not without a little surprise, that soon after he received a challenge from a corporal of his own regiment to swim a mile in the Indian mutiny of 1859, in the straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, about a mile from the shore. This corporal was a fine swimmer, but by no means equal to Leahy, and he only made one condition, that he should be allowed to land on the right of the island, while Leahy should take the left.

This was a private match between the two for a guinea a side, and they started one moonlight evening, just after Leahy's match with Osman. At first Leahy was leaving the corporal slowly, then began to gain more rapidly, and thought he had an easy victory before him, when they both began to near the island. The tide was beginning to set out to sea with increasing force, and suddenly Leahy found himself swept out of his course by a current of which he was previously ignorant, running at the rate of seven miles an hour for his long race. He was so surprised that the same current, which formed an eddy on the other side, was taking the corporal straight to the island at the same rapid pace. Then he realized that his challenger had tricked him, and that he was in grave danger.

What was to be done? No boat was near them, and no human being could hope to swim against such a current, not even the champion of Aden. For a few moments Leahy gave himself up for lost, and began to think over all his past life. Already the current had borne him some distance from the shore, and he was now it was taking him saw that he would certainly miss the nearest point by at least thirty feet. Suddenly flashed over his mind something he had read. It was very little he ever did read, but anything about swimming he had by heart. He remembered to have seen it in a certain book that if one dives beneath a current he loses it, and can swim faster under water than above it. There was just time to try if this were true.

"Lord have mercy on me, a sinner!" thought poor Leahy, and down he went, heading for shore. He kept down as long as he could, and when he rose, oh, joy!—he found himself near the island. One look, and down he went again. Up he came, and the bank loomed almost overhead, but the terrible surface current was hur-

rying him away again. A third dive, and his outstretched hand struck a sharp coral rock. He was safe. As he rose to the surface, he caught an overwhelming mass of seaweed, clinging to a rock, and a moment later was on shore.

There was time to win the race yet. It was set to a flight of steps at the end of the island, and he ran toward them, reaching the top just as his rival came slowly climbing out of the water, whither a branch of the same current had carried him. It was a fair beat, and ended in Leahy, then and there, giving his treacherous rival a tremendous thrashing for his trick.

Now, for some time, the young corporal had no more challenges, but he did not give up swimming for all that. One morning, at sunrise, after reveille roll-call, he was walking on the beach when he saw a large English man-of-war lying at anchor, about three miles from shore. He suddenly made up his mind that he would swim out to her, ask for some newspapers, and come back before breakfast or at least before guard-mount. This, too, when he knew that he was detailed for guard that day. No sooner thought of than off went his clothes, and he went.

He swam to the ship and was taken on board, where he was highly complimented by the officers. He asked the time from them and found it had been fifteen minutes swimming three miles and a half, the exact distance, afterward measured in a boat. After resting five minutes, Leahy sprang into the water again, a packet of newspapers on his head, and swam back to shore in fifty-three minutes. He was so tired that he made still better time, but for being annoyed by a pair of sharks which followed him. The Red Sea sharks are, however, such cowardly brutes that they are easily frightened off by splashing and shouting. This stopped Leahy probably at least three minutes. He swam back just in time to dress, get to his quarters, and turn out for guard-mount, thereby escaping punishment.

After two years at Aden, the regiment was sent to India, where Leahy spent a great many years, rising to the post of sergeant-major and receiving several medals for valor. He only failed to get the Victoria cross for saving an officer's life in the Indian mutiny of 1859, because the officer himself and the only other witness of the deed were killed at the relief of Lucknow, before they could give their affidavit of his bravery.

This was, and is, the one spot in Sergeant Leahy's life. He always felt that he ought to have had the Victoria Cross, which is coveted by English soldiers more than anything else. It is given "for valor," and is only bestowed on those who have saved the life of a fellow-soldier under circumstances of extraordinary danger, attested by two eye-witnesses, one of whom must be a commissioned officer.

Although Leahy did not get his Victoria Cross, he at least deserved it, and he obtained three good conduct medals, for having served three years of five years each without a single day's inefficiency in manners or discipline. At last, in 1885, he was discharged, after thirty years' faithful service, at the age of forty-seven, and was pensioned, with a certificate of good service, which procured him work at Eton. He went there, because he was recommended by several of his old officers, who had been Etonians. At first he was put in as assistant swimming-master, and after a few years promoted to chief instructor, a place he holds now. The Eton swimming-school, since he has been there, has become the best in the world, and is well worth imitation in America.

The origin of the swimming-school is this. Eton is situated on the River Thames, above London, and the boys are of course very fond of rowing, but so many accidents have happened that the masters will not allow any boy to enter a boat until he has "passed his examination" as a swimmer. The consequence is that the whole of the boys have to pass through the swimming-school, and it has become the best in the world.

The "examination" is as follows:

The swimming-master stands on a platform in the middle of a long bath, about waist-deep, with clear water, and the pupils swim round him, while he corrects their faults, teaches them how to kick, how to strike out the hands, when to breathe, and so on. He never lets them out of his eye till he is quite satisfied that each pupil hollows his back properly, kicks wide, lies flat, swims perfectly, and in "Eton style." Then the boy is "passed." Learners are taken in the large bath from the platform, and put in a loose canvas belt passing under the arms. This belt hangs by a rope from a pole, held by the master, and the pupil has no fear of sinking while he is being taught. He never gets his mouth full of water, never gets frightened, and the consequence is that most boys learn how to swim pretty fairly in three or four lessons, some strike out even in the first, and none want more than a dozen.

If a boy knows how to swim, but swims "bad style," as most boys do, the swimming-master puts him right into the belt again, and keeps him till he has learned "Eton style." Such is the famous Eton school of swimming, and there it is to-day for any of our readers who ever takes a trip to England. Sergeant Leahy looks strong and old and vigorous still, and is still a first-class swimming-master at Eton for many a long year to come. He is always polite to Americans. He has three medals from the Humane Society for saving people from drowning.

Chased by Liquid Fire.

AN INCIDENT OF WOMAN'S HEROISM.

BY EDWARD L. WHEELER.

"THIS is not a story I'm going to give you," said Sam Hall, passing around the tobacco-pouch for us to lighten. "It's truer'n Gospel, an' thar's dozens as will bear me witness o' the fac' when they read this in the SATURDAY JOURNAL. I don't go a cent on yarns, so I'll give ye 'suthin' as actual as occurred."

"It was in the early days of the oil excitement, when people were crazy about oil as they were about gold in the '50's. I had an attack o' the fever among the first, and struck a bee-line fer Oil City, which was the highest point fer me at that time from Pitts."

"It didn't take me long ter find out that a poor man couldn't make his independent fortune in a day; but thar war heaps o' work to do at liberal prices, an' so I decided to stop off an' try my luck w' the rest."

I wandered about fer a week or so, and at last struck down on the Huckleberry farm, near Triumph. Twere'n't much of a place, this Triumph; thar were a few shanties scattered here an' there through the woods, on top o' the hill, an' every other house weren't no house at all, an' the next was like as not an oil-derrick. Lookin' up from the valley below, one sees a most imagine the Triumph war a settlement o' meetin'-houses, supposin' that the towerin' derricks were steeples.

First along, women were as scarce in Triumph as good vittles, which weren't to be had at no price. Thar war one family, though, wi' a pretty gal in it, an' when we boys d' get hungry fer a glimpse o' the tender sex, we'd walk three miles over to old Bill Mackey's, an' peek in the windy at his Belle a-playin' on the piano.

The Mackeys lived way off in the woods in an old hut, but they had heaps o' duds, you bet, an' weren't a-askin' no favors o' nobody or nothin'. Every day Miss Belle would get on her pony an' ride over into the oil district in an oil-derrick, but twere'n't to see us ough, the greasy cusses.

"Oh! no; thar weren't no attractions among our crowd fer her. But, it did take me long fer to find out whar she was castin' sheep's eyes."

Triumph stood on top of a ridge, on each side of which was a valley. The slope on the east war powerful steep, an' about half-way down war a shanty in which lived a young feller as was sick. I got a glimpse o' him when

passin' by one mornin', an' I swar he war high about as 'ansum as a pictur'. We boys used to call him the Hermit; but arter Belle Mackey got to goin' an' visitin' him, we s'pected they were in love with each other, an' such war the case as was afterward proven. His name war Ray Sylvester or sum sich, an' he war confined to his bed w' rheumatics, or the like, his only attendant, 'cept Miss Belle, bein' an old affger wench. Folks said as how he war a millionaire, but thar war more as didn't believe it as thar war that did. Didn't seem to me that a millionaire'd be livin' off in desolation like he; it didn't look nateral; know I wouldn't if I war w' th such a heap o' duds.

Well, Miss Belle used to visit him regular, so that we got to expectin' her comin'; but at last we noticed that she didn't go nigh the shanty no more, and we kalkulated thar'd been a fallin' out atwixt 'em. So one o' our crowd went an' jabbered w' the wench, an' found out the hull lay o' the land. Her master war a poor artist w'out means, an' Miss Belle had offered to marry him an' let him have the handlin' o' her spondulicks, at which he got offended, when there were a few hot words, an' my lady had cleared out in high dudgeon.

So arter that, instead of going to the shanty, she'd ride down to our wells, and watch us fellers at work, always having a pleasant word or smile at her command. The wells we war workin' were at the side hill, about a quarter of a mile above Sylvester's shanty, an' the same distance below Triumph, whar the heft o' the strikes war. Above an' directly on a line w' us war old Bill Mackey's, the great thousan-bar' tank, an' this, owin' to the large production of the territory, was constantly full o' oil in the crude state.

"Well I remember the night that God saw fit to strike that tank w' his hand of mighty power. It had been sunny the day and just at night a big thunder-storm riz that make yer teeth chatter. Our gang—six o' us in all—war gathered in the b'ler-house to keep dry, fer we knew 'twar goin' ter rain pitchforks, an' so we skud fer shelter. We hadn't bin thar more'n a minnit when Miss Belle came ridin' down the hill, a-shoutin' fer us to get out o' the house. We knew w'at she meant. It warn't safe there when thunder an' lightning war playin' around so much steel an' the like. So we piled out into the rain, an' stood an' tuk it like a passel o' lanterns, she w' us, an' seemin' to really enjoy the soakin'."

"Talkin' about storms—that war a storm in dead earnest. The rain kin down in bucketfuls, the thunder roared and banged away like ten thousan' cannons, an' the lightning hissed an' squirmed about in shapes orrit to see. Can't say how twas w' the rest o' the boys, but I'm sartin' every hair in my head war standin' straight on end."

"I could see that Mistress Belle was uneasy, too. Every now an' then, as the thunder d' rip out like a bellarin' mill, she'd give a quick glance, first down at her feet, then up at the tank, an' then up to'rds Triumph—at the big Morgan tank, I expect, which loomed up grim and threatening through the glares of lightning."

"For full half an hour it kept up, an' orful battle o' the elements, then as the sky began to clear away and a burst of light from the sun illuminated the scene, thar war an awful clap o' thunder, follered by a blaze o' lightning that seemed to singe the very leaves from the trees; then high above the infernal din of the moment we heard the crash of Belle Mackey, as she leaped to the back of her horse and rode him madly down the hill toward Sylvester's shanty."

"Phy! fly! fer God's sake, men; the tank has burst!—an' ocean of liquid fire is after you!"

"Sirs, I shall never, never forget that terrible instant—that single second in which we took one wild, scared glance back up the hill."

"The lightning had split an ugly gash in the side of the tank from which the ignited oil was pouring in a mighty river, and coming madly down toward us."

"You ask id we run?"

"Well, if I am not clean gone in my memory we did. Away, away down the hill we tore, leaping over all obstacles, minding nothing, only frenzied with the mad determination to get out of the jaws of the fiery death that was chasing us. Belle Mackey was nearly to Sylvester's cabin ere we had started, so swift had she been in her flight. We saw her reach it, and leap off on the ground; we saw her disappear within the shanty, only to return a second later with a man's form clasped in her arms. How she ever succeeded in mounting, we cannot say, but mount she did, and away down the hill, slantwise, she dashed, we close at her heels, and the roaring, boiling, shrieking volume of liquid fire at ours. Madly we tore on, howling with fright, and cursing like troopers; it's a wonder we never ever perished such a pack of sinners to escape. But escape we did, though I can never tell just how."